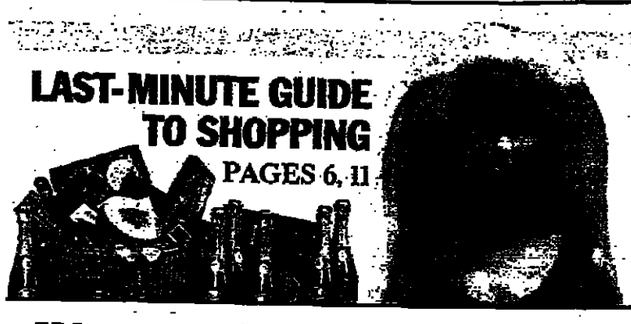
THE TIMES

35P

No. 65,769 TUESDAY DECEMBER 24 1996



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IN YOUR BOXING DAY TIMES
Dr Thomas Stuttaford on a healthy start to the new year

PLUS: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST SALES

Women taken to 'scene of the crime'

Nurses could face public execution

By Bill Frost, Joanna Bale and Michael Binyon

TWO British nurses arrested after the murder of an Australian colleague at a Saudi hospital were taken back to the scene of the crime by military police yesterday. If convicted, they could be publicly beheaded, although the chance of a Westerner being executed is slight.

One of the women was last night identified by sources at the King Fahd Medical Complex in Dhahran as Deborah Perry. She is thought to be 36 and to have family in the Midlands.

The other nurse, also single and in her 30s, was named by the same sources as Lucy or Lucille Mclaughlin from Scotland. Both are thought to have begun working at the hospital four months ago.

Saudi police were reported to have taken both women from their cells to the "scene of the crime yesterday" as part of the investigation. Fellow hospital staff were said to be "in a mood of complete and utter disbelief" at the murder.

So far, the pair have been denied contact with British diplomats. Last night a senior Foreign Office official in London telephoned his opposite number at the Saudi Embassy asking for "immediate consular access".

Human rights organisations expressed concern over the women's treatment. Amnesty International said "torture is frequently used by the Saudi authorities to extract confessions and the nurses might face months on remand before coming to trial".

Under sharia — strict Islamic law — the women could face execution by beheading if convicted. Clemency is in the hands of the bereaved family: a murderer is spared only when they indicate a willingness to forgive, usually after the payment of compensation.

Saudi law does not, in theory, distinguish between Saudis and foreigners, Muslims and Christians. Drug dealers, murderers, rapists, child molesters and terrorists are publicly beheaded. However, although dozens of Asians and Africans working in Saudi Arabia have been executed for murder, sex and drug crimes, so far capital punishment has not been enforced on any European.

Executions are normally carried out immediately after Friday prayers in the courtyard of a mosque. The accused is dressed in white and generally heavily sedated.

The British women, arrested in Dhahran on Friday, are being questioned about the murder of Yvonne Gilford, a 55-year-old Australian. The senior theatre nurse was described by colleagues as "one of the last of the Florence Nightingales".

All three worked at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran. Miss Gilford's body was found in her room on December 11. She had been stabbed four times, battered with a hammer and smothered. The murdered woman's brother said last night that he was surprised when he heard two British nurses were being questioned.

Yvonne Gilford: "one of the last Nightingales"

Frank Gilford, from Jamestown, South Australia, added: "It does seem odd." He was confident the Saudi authorities would conduct the murder inquiry fairly, and added: "I am hoping Yvonne's body will be returned soon so that we can an arrange a funeral," he said. "She was a caring person. She loved her new job."

Miss Gilford went to Saudi six months ago from South Africa because she thought it a safer country. Gay Wiggill, a Johannesburg colleague, said: "She lived for nursing. She was one of the last of the Florence Nightingales."

The two British women were arrested as Saudi police questioned staff. An unconfirmed report said they had "confessed". Both were recruited by a London-based nursing agency, Arabian Careers. The company has an exclusive contract to recruit staff for three Dhahran hospitals.

Eleanor Field, its managing director, said she had been told by the King Fahd hospital that the women had "been accused of Miss Gilford's murder". Mrs Field said: "This is very worrying for all of us. I feel very sorry for the families. My heart goes out to all of them, including the family of the dead woman."

Female staff at the hospital last night demanded better security, including closed-circuit television monitors. Two years ago a Filipino nurse was stabbed to death there.

After Miss Gilford's murder, all 1,600 staff at the base were refused permission to leave and foreign nationals had their passports confiscated. Some 40 British staff at the hospital were told they could not go home for Christmas.

☐ **Riyadh:** A Sudanese man who stabbed a Saudi national to death after a brawl was beheaded in public yesterday, state-run television revealed.

NIGEL BENNETT

Cold comfort: Frostie prepares for his outing after spending the year in top form in the family freezer

Frostie the snowman keeps his cool

By Lin Jenkins

A DOTING couple have ensured that their two sons will have a white Christmas by keeping Frostie the snowman in the freezer all year.

Luke Muren, six, and his two-year-old brother Jacob, built their first snowman in last January's blizzards. But their excitement dissolved as he began to melt.

Their father Tim, 25, a civil engineer, decided to avoid the tears by removing Frostie's head and putting it in the family freezer.

Luke and Jacob have kept an eye on it throughout the year by occasionally checking on the carrot nose and coal eyes. They have even periodically dressed it up in its red scarf and checked cap. Another freezer was installed in the cellar to store food as Frostie's head occupied the one in the kitchen.

The boys failed to notice when their mother Laura, 25, sent Frostie to neighbours when the freezer needed defrosting. Nor did they notice him shrink as pieces were chipped off to remove fishfinger crumbs or mould his form to fit the available space.

The family, from Keighley, Yorks, built a new, smaller, body when a dusting of snow fell earlier this winter.

Mrs Muren said: "Everybody thinks we are barmy. It has been a close-kept secret with only our few friends who have had to have him for a while knowing anything about it. We have had a bit of snow this winter and they asked if they could have Frostie. We were able to scrap together just enough for a body so he had an outing."

However, the demands on the family's two freezers have proved so heavy over the festive season that Frostie's head, weighing 6lb, has been dispatched to the yard. He is not yet melting, since temperatures are low, but he has suffered the ignominy of Raymond the rabbit eating his nose.

Christmas Day for Frostie will be dry, bright and largely snowless, according to the London Weather Centre. Only Scotland and parts of the east coast of England can expect a light coating of snow. Temperatures will mainly hover around 3C, but strong winds are expected. Today will be mainly dry with sunny spells.

Jacob Muren, left, with his brother Luke

Forecast, page 20

Road rage girlfriend goes home to her daughter

By Daniel McGrory

TREMBLING and looking pale, Tracie Andrews, charged with the murder of Lee Harvey, her fiancé, who, she claims, was the victim of a road-rage incident, returned to her mother's home last night. She had earlier been freed on bail to spend Christmas with Karla, six, her daughter.

She refused to comment on her three days in a Gloucester prison, but John Andrews, 53, her father, said: "As you can appreciate, we have only just arrived home, but we are all elated. It's the best Christmas present we could have. Tracie is still spaced out and can't take it all in. She just wants to rest."

Freeing Miss Andrews, a judge at Oxford Crown Court dismissed police fears that Miss Andrews, 27, a former model, might attempt suicide. A condition of her bail is that she stay with her mother, Irene, and Alan Carter, her stepfather, until she appears in court again in February. Their house is on the same estate in Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester, as the maisonette she shared with her fiancé.

After she arrived home, Mr Carter said: "Obviously this is a very emotional time for us, all and we would appreciate a bit of peace and quiet together. We are all very happy that she's home."

In a 75-minute hearing in chambers, Judge Peter Crawford, QC, granted a defence appeal that magistrates at Redditch had been right to grant her bail last week. The prosecution had succeeded in having that ruling reversed.

Detectives feared she might try to kill herself because she had taken a drugs overdose days after giving a tearful television account of how her fiancé had been stabbed 37

Continued on page 2, col 3

Ted Leadbitter dies at 77

Ted Leadbitter, the former Labour MP for The Hartlepools who exposed the traitor Sir Anthony Blunt, has died in hospital after a road accident.

He was 77 and had retired from Parliament at the last general election after 28 years.

The Times

The Times, in common with other national newspapers, will not be published on Christmas Day. It will appear again on Boxing Day.

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Frs 80; Canada $3.50; Canaries Pes 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 14.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 500; Netherlands Fl 4.50; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 60; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 27.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 19.50; Switzerland S Frs 4.00; Tunisia Din 2.200; USA $3.50.

The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

Europe cuts cost of love

The cost of a true lover's Christmas has been dramatically reduced by shopping in Europe for this year's *Times* costing of the gifts listed in the traditional song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*

Report, page 6

God with us

"At Bethlehem God is with us in weakness as a newborn child. He is the crucified Lord who knows the agony of a Dunblane or a Rwanda from the inside . . . He is now and always the God who is with us."

Leading article, page 15

Fears rise for missing girl

By Ian Key and Lin Jenkins

LATE-NIGHT Christmas shoppers and vagrants were being questioned last night by police hunting for a nine-year-old girl missing since Thursday.

More than 70 officers showed a photographs of Kayleigh Ward to people on the streets in Chester in the hope that they might have seen the girl.

Detectives believe that Kayleigh, who went missing as she walked to buy chips from a shop after attending a school disco, might have tried to make her way back to the area of Chester where she used to live or go to the city centre where she often went while playing truant from school. She was known often to speak to vagrants and others on the street. Fears are growing that she might have come to harm. Two men had recently approached a number of children trying to entice them into their car. Kayleigh has in the past turned up after a few hours missing at the home of her aunt, Beverley Ward. One child claims to have seen her on a bus going to the city centre on Friday.

Kayleigh: streetwise

Detective Superintendent David Jones, leading the search, said: "As time goes by I am becoming more and more concerned. The fact that she is streetwise can be as dangerous as it is helpful."

Kayleigh's mother, Yvonne Ward, 36, who has two other children, moved from the outskirts of the town in October. Beverley Ward issued an appeal on behalf of the family: "We just want her back. My message to Kayleigh is 'Please, come home and give us back our Christmas'."

Hostages tell of joy at their release

Lima: Two Britons freed by Peruvian terrorists after six days' captivity said they were "hugely relieved" but called on their captors to free the 140 men still held at gunpoint (Gabriella Gamini writes).

"I am so glad to be out and will be with my family for Christmas. But we cannot forget those who are still captive," said Roger Church, a senior diplomat.

Mr Church and David Griffith, manager of a luxury hotel in Lima, were among 225 hostages released early yesterday in what the rebels called a "Christmas gesture".

Hostages freed, page 7

Mountain-top meditator turns unwanted rescuers away

By Alan Hamilton

A BUDDHIST seeking to celebrate the winter solstice on top of a Welsh mountain thought he had found the required peace and contentment — until it was shattered by the arrival of an RAF helicopter and a mountain rescue team bent on saving his life.

The solitary meditator, surprised by the intrusion and alarmed that he had caused an unnecessary incident, politely informed the eight members of the South Snowdonia mountain rescue team who had interrupted their Christmas party to find him that he was safe and well, and wished only to be left alone. The rescuers retreated, leaving him extra food and hot drinks, and making him promise to report to the police when his contemplation was over.

He had chosen one of the coldest nights of the year on Cader Idris near Dollgellau for his vigil. The air was crisp and clear, but winds approaching 60mph created a potentially fatal chill factor, and made flying difficult for the helicopter from RAF Valley on Anglesey which had been scrambled to help find the man, after other walkers had reported seeing a lone climber apparently with a head injury.

Barry Ellis, leader of the mountain rescue team, said yesterday that the man, believed to be a 50-year old from Milton Keynes, had been clothed in adequate mountaineering gear and wrapped in a sheepskin when he was found. "He had a slight head cut from falling on ice but it was not serious. He told us he was a Buddhist and he wanted to contemplate for the night. He was very concerned that he had caused a problem and put us to trouble."

Satisfied that the Buddhist was safe, the rescuers gave him extra food and a flask, then left. Last night they reported that he had descended safely.

Leading article, page 15

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Major sanctions £7m 'blitz on Blair' strategy

■ The Tories believe the costliest ever negative advertising campaign can help them overhaul Labour's lead in the polls and build on the success of the 'demon eyes' posters. Andrew Pierce reports

JOHN MAJOR is to take the Tory party into the most expensive negative political advertising campaign in British election history.

The £7 million publicity offensive announced last night by Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, will be dominated by personalised attacks on Tony Blair, and on Labour's taxation and spending policies.

The Conservative leadership, undaunted by criticism of its "demon eyes" advertisement, will return to a similar theme in the four-month campaign, which will be unveiled on January 6. It has been devised by Lord Saatchi, Sir Timothy Bell, and Baron Chadlington, the party's experts on advertising, and was presented to the Cabinet last week. Thousands of poster sites have been booked until polling day, which is assumed to be May 1. The posters will be changed about once a month.

The advertisements will highlight Mr Blair's policy changes since he became an MP in 1983. His opposition to the Thatcher trade union reforms, support for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and early opposition to membership of the Common Market will form the main thrust of the attacks.

Mr Major, who in the past has expressed misgivings about negative advertising, has been won over. One senior Tory strategist said: "Of course it's negative advertising. Labour's will be the same. It will be the most negative advertising campaign so far. The gloves are off." Mr Major was so enthused by the strategy, which was unveiled by Dr Mawhinney, that he told friends afterwards: "I have never felt so optimistic about our chances."

The Tories' private polling has shown that despite criticism by churchmen, the demon eyes campaign was a startling success among focus groups of floating voters, who for the first time began to question what lay behind Mr Blair's smile.

The Tory source said: "The word 'trust' will be a key feature. We will be saying, how can you trust this man who has changed so much? Has he really changed? We will ensure Tony Blair's past catches up with him. It is the logical extension of the 'New Labour, New Danger' strategy."

Lord Saatchi, Sir Timothy, and Lord Chadlington, dubbed The Three Musketeers at Conservative Central Office, have also invented a new Labour tax campaign. It focuses on £30 billion of spending to which the Tories claim the Labour Party is committed. "Tax and trust. It's worked before, it will work again," said a Tory Central Office official.

The leadership has drawn up a high-risk strategy on Europe which seeks to portray Mr Blair as a man who will sign over British powers *en masse* to Brussels. Ministers believe the attacks will not trigger renewed infighting by focusing on the threat to sovereignty posed by a Labour government.

Labour's proposed windfall tax will be portrayed as an assault on the millions of small shareholders who cashed in on the Tory privatisation policies. The minimum wage will be presented as a tax on jobs which could push unemployment back over the two-million mark.

Millions of pounds have poured into Central Office coffers as the election approaches. Only three years ago the party was £18 million in the red. The debts have been paid off and the party finances have been transformed to enable Mr Major to fight the most extravagant campaign so far. Labour's huge lead in the opinion polls galvanised many disillusioned Tory donors to return to the fold.

A £200,000 'war room' has been up at Central Office to co-ordinate the election campaign. A state of the art rapid rebuttal computer system, similar to Labour's 'Excalibur', is up and running. It has access to Tory and Labour election material dating back to 1929. Extra staff are being taken on.

The Tory source said: "The strategy is in place. The money is available. The election campaign proper begins next week."

'Hospitals send elderly home early to save cash'

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of elderly patients are being discharged from hospital too early in an attempt to save money, and then need readmitting days later, Labour said last night.

Tessa Jowell, the Shadow Health Minister, condemned an increase of more than 11 per cent in readmissions since the NHS market was introduced in 1991, and said that the "revolving door" policy had in fact cost the taxpayer an extra £500 million over the past four years.

Ms Jowell blamed the rise in readmitted patients on added pressure to reduce NHS waiting lists and make beds available. Hospitals that run out of cash are entitled to release beds for patients referred by GP fundholders who have their own budgets, enabling them to jump the NHS waiting lists.

"The Tories have created a conveyor belt NHS where patients are patched up and sent home," Ms Jowell said last night. A Labour Government would make reducing the number of readmissions a priority, she said.

Some 57,231 patients aged over 75 were readmitted last year within 28 days of being discharged from hospital, costing £128.3 million in 1994-95. In 1991-92, 51,402 elderly patients were readmitted, costing £115m. The total number of emergency admissions for patients aged 75 or over last year was 806,076.

Ms Jowell will use the figures to promote Labour's proposals for a "recovery service" for elderly people, to be announced in the new year. Labour plans to test a number of pilot schemes to find out the best way of giving elderly people additional support before they go home, such as extra convalescence places. The cost would be met by the decrease in readmissions for this age group.

Elderly patients tend to stay in hospital an average three to four days longer than other adult patients, blocking the beds for other emergency admissions. Beds are more likely to be blocked by the elderly in the winter months, with an increase in viruses and flu-like illnesses.

Hospitals have been under added pressure due to a dramatic decrease in the number of beds, from 489,000 in 1974 to 275,000 in 1995. Ms Jowell said: "Figures show increasing numbers of elderly patients are being discharged from hospitals before they are fit enough to cope alone at home."

Often an extra two or three days bed could make a difference and help an elderly person on the way to recovery, she argued. An alternative "halfway house" could be set up to help the elderly convalesce. "There is a yawning gap in the care of elderly people and Labour will be bringing forward proposals for a recovery service for elderly people early next year."

☐ Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, is to speed the elimination of mixed-sex wards. In a letter to be sent to all NHS trusts, he is ordering hospital managers to set local timetables for the conversion of wards to single-sex use.

BARRY BATCHELOR / PA

Tracie Andrews after being released from Eastwood Women's Prison last night

Road rage woman freed

times after a car chase through country lanes.

After Miss Andrews was released from Eastwood Women's Prison, she clasped her arms around to face the cameras. As she stood by his side weeping, Tim Robinson, her solicitor, said: "She is overhwelmed by the events of the past few days. She is very pleased to be going home and to her freedom."

He added that the publicity surrounding the case had resulted in "a significant witness" coming forward and that his client was very grateful for that. Police, however said that they knew nothing about any such development.

Miss Andrews will have to stay with her mother, Irene, and stepfather Alan Carter at their three bedroom home until she appears in court again in February.

Miss Andrews was driven away for a private reunion with her family and Karla, her six year old daughter from a previous relationship.

Her stepfather, Alan Clark, said: "We are delighted and relieved that she will be able to spend Christmas with her daughter and the family.

"The Judge's decision is just confirmation of our belief in Tracie's innocence."

The prosecution alleged at last week's hearing that Miss Andrews was a violent woman who had pulled a knife on her fiancé and on a previous boyfriend. Magistrates heard how she had a row with Mr Harvey earlier on the day he died and that the couple had argued over a black woollen hat that she had shown him as a joke.

Mr Harvey was stabbed in the neck, face, back, head and upper body. Two main arteries were severed.

Teachers challenge pensions changes

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

A TEACHERS' union is to take Gillian Shephard to court over changes in early retirement rules for teachers which, it claimed, were "slipped out" in the run-up to Christmas to avoid criticism.

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) consulted Cherie Booth, the barrister who is married to Tony Blair, before launching its action against the Education and Employment Secretary. The case will be heard early in the new year when the union will seek an injunction preventing the rules from being applied.

Teaching unions have been swamped with calls from anxious members since Mrs Shephard announced that from April the costs of early retirement would have to be borne by schools. The ATL, the third biggest union, has taken 12,000 calls in six weeks.

Conscious that most schools would not be able to afford early retirement packages, thousands of teachers hope to beat the deadline. But last week the teachers' pensions agency warned schools that applications would be granted in March only under strict conditions. Staff could not be taken back on temporary contracts. The ATL argues that Mrs Shephard acted unlawfully in making the change without notice or consultation. It will claim the restrictions contravene established practice.

Peter Smith, the union's general secretary, said: "We believe the Government slipped this out just before Christmas in the hope that no one would notice. Mrs Shephard has been rumbled. While she seems intent on playing Scrooge with teachers' and lecturers' livelihoods for Christmas, she will now find herself hauled before the courts in the new year."

Dying man moved on by hospital guards

A man died hours after two nurses asked security guards to move him away from their hospital's gates because they thought he was acting suspiciously. A short time later the man collapsed with hypothermia in freezing temperatures. He was found by two other off-duty nurses about 300 yards from St Mary's Maternity hospital, Manchester. They tried to revive him, then phoned an ambulance to take him to Mancheser Royal Infirmary, where he died an hour later.

Health officials were investigating the claims last night and trying to identify the nurses involved. Staff at St Mary's were being questioned about the incident, which happened at the weekend. The victim, who has not been identifed, is thought to be aged 40 to 60, and was unshaven with a blue waist-length, zipped anorak. He had no identification but was wearing signet rings.

Christie murder case remand

A 32-year-old man was remanded in custody charged with the murder of Russell Christie, younger brother of the Olympic athlete Linford Christie. Simon Williams, unemployed, of no fixed adress, will reappear before Marylebone magistrates on December 30. Russell Christie, 34, died in hospital on Friday from stab wounds after police found him lying on a road in Notting Hill, west London. Linford Christie, 36, has flown home from training in Australia to console his father James.

Ten jailed for Benn fight riot

Three men were jailed for six months and seven for three months for violent disorder at the world boxing championship fight between Nigel Benn and Juan Gimenez of Spain at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in September 1994. The violence, which involved more than 100 spectators, started when rival Birmingham City and Manchester City football supporters clashed. Judge Elisabeth Fisher, sitting at Birmingham Crown Court, described the scenes as disgraceful.

Viewers vote for Blair

Tony Blair has been voted Man of the Year by Teletext viewers for the third successive year. The Labour leader received 53 per cent of the 8,422 votes cast, more than three times that of John Major, who came second. The Princess of Wales was the most popular woman, beating Lisa Potts, heroine of the Wolverhampton school machete attack, into second place. In a second contest the Prime Minister was voted "Turkey of the Year", well ahead of last year's winner, the Prince of Wales, and the footballer Paul Gascoigne.

French tourist found dead

A French woman in her thirties has been found dead near her Irish holiday home, a two-storey farmhouse near Schull in west Cork. Her partly clothed body, was found yesterday in a remote lane by a local man on a morning walk. The woman, who was identified locally as Sophie Bounial from Paris, had suffered head injuries. She arrived in Ireland last Friday and had been due to return to France today. It was understood that she had been staying at the farmhouse on her own.

Banknote trickster jailed

A trickster who convinced his victims that he could turn paper into banknotes and duped two men into handing over £18,000 each, was sentenced yesterday at Southwark Crown Court to 18 months' jail for conspiracy to defraud. Claude Ismael, 41, from Paris, told businessmen that he had already made millions of pounds for President Mandela of South Africa. Jean Garta Dakou, 30, of Albany Street, Camden, north London, was also jailed for 12 months after admitting conspiracy to defraud.

Teacher's trust raises £52,000

A trust fund set up in memory of Gwen Mayor, the teacher killed in the Dunblane massacre, has raised £52,000. The Gwen Mayor Trust will be formally established next month to benefit arts and sports projects in Scottish primary schools. A total of £7.3 million is now held in three funds, the largest being The Dunblane Fund standing at £4.5 million, which will be distributed mainly among the families of the dead and injured.

MoT certificate scrapped

The MoT certificate is to be replaced by computer records as the Government tries to eradicate fraud costing millions of pounds. John Bowis, the Road Safety Minister, announced plans to link 18,000 MoT testing stations to a central computer. Details of each test would be entered into a database which could be checked by police and insurers. Motorists will be given a computer print-out after the test instead of the existing certificate.

Record Christmas post

The Post Office has delivered a record number of Christmas greetings, handling two billion cards and letters. John Roberts, its chief executive, said: "For eight consecutive days Royal Mail has been handling more than 100 million letters and cards every 24 hours — a huge achievement." On Monday, December 16, more than 128 million items, nearly double the normal daily volume, were handled, the largest number ever posted in a single day.

Baby penguins go public

Three blackfooted penguins made their public debut at London Zoo yesterday. Rudolf, Tinsel and Nöel, who were born there ten days ago, will become permanent occupants of the penguin pool early in the new year. Blackfooted penguins originate from the South African west coast and Namibia. Their numbers have decreased by 90 per cent since 1950 as a result of over-fishing, illegal collection of eggs and oil pollution.

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Mayhew will not penalise loyalists over car bomb

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW fought yesterday to keep the Ulster peace process alive when he indicated that loyalists would not be expelled from the Stormont talks after the weekend car bombing in Belfast.

As loyalist politicians said the loyalist ceasefire was intact, the Northern Ireland Secretary praised them for repudiating the car bomb attack on Sunday which injured a notorious republican.

Sir Patrick's comments came after the two fringe loyalist parties with links to terrorists disassociated themselves from the bomb attack on Eddie Copeland, who was named in Parliament in 1994 as an IRA leader.

Gary McMichael, leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, the political wing of the Ulster Defence Association, said: "It is terrible, it is tragic. I am opposed to violence from whatever the source." He stopped short of condemning the bombing.

Mr McMichael said that the failure of the Combined Loyalist Military Command to issue a statement after the attack indicated that its two-year-old truce was still in place. His comments increased speculation in Belfast that the bomb may have been a warning by loyalists — possibly the UDA — to the IRA to end its violence or risk a return to widespread tit-for-tat attacks.

Loyalist sources made clear that the IRA's attempt to murder two police officers in a children's hospital on Friday as they guarded a senior Unionist could not go unanswered. However, security sources said that even a warning shot was fraught with risks in the present atmosphere.

Sir Patrick welcomed Mr McMichael's criticisms of the bombing, which contrasted with Sinn Fein's failure to repudiate the IRA attack on Friday night. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, said he regretted the shooting.

Sir Patrick told BBC Radio 4's *Today*: "I notice that both [loyalist] parties have denounced this . . . That seems in very marked contrast with the leader of Sinn Fein." The Northern Ireland Secretary refused to speculate on whether the loyalists would be expelled from the talks but his comments indicated that ministers want them to remain at the negotiations.

Sir Patrick's comments infuriated republicans, who said it was hypocritical of him to praise loyalists when they had failed to condemn the bombing.

☐ More than 100 republican and loyalist terrorists were released from Northern Ireland jails yesterday on Christmas parole. The Irish Government released 20 republican prisoners on parole.

Trimble attacked over deal

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND NICHOLAS WATT

A ROW over David Trimble's leadership of the Ulster Unionists erupted yesterday after his decision to join with Sir James Goldsmith in campaigning for a referendum over Europe.

In return for £200,000 of promotional funding, the Ulster Unionists will campaign in Northern Ireland for a referendum, and Jim Nicholson, the party's sole member of the European Parliament, will join the Europe of Nations political grouping headed by Sir James, a French MEP. Mr Trimble had to deny that the alliance with Sir James, whose Referendum Party is contesting the general election, would have any influence on Westminster politics. Sir James insists he will not be involved in any other area of Unionist campaigning.

At Westminster, the Tories depend on the Ulster Unionist MPs to keep them in power. Mr Trimble said: "We will continue to vote in the same way as we have done in the Commons. We will be voting as Ulster Unionists."

John Taylor, the deputy party leader, criticised the decision and said that he had not been involved and that the party's MPs were not consulted. Senior Unionists fear the link could alienate the Tory and the Labour leaderships.

Mr Trimble's opponents, who include most of the party's MPs, are furious with him for negotiating the deal. They say that his failure to inform them was typical.

A campanology campaign has failed to recruit 10,000 volunteers to learn the ropes

Steeples fall silent as bell-ringing loses its appeal

BY ROBIN YOUNG

"AND all the bells on earth shall ring / On Christmas Day in the morning," promises the carol. Not this year they won't. A shortage of bell-ringers is keeping many church towers and steeples silent.

Although the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has been awarded £3 million by the Millennium Commission to repair old and disused church bells so that they can welcome the millennium, the council's campaign to recruit bell-ringers has not yet brought sufficient results to ensure that even those peals of bells already in working order can be used this Christmas.

Estimates suggest that at least 10,000 new bell-ringers are needed to tug the ropes in all Britain's churches. Teams of bell-ringers often have to speed by car from church to church within the space of a few hours. The situation is particularly difficult in areas with few people and many churches, such as Norfolk and Suffolk.

John Anderson, a spokesman for the council, said yesterday: "At the turn of the century, each little village church would have two services a day and had its own band of bell-ringers. Now we often find that church benefices have amalgamated, there are fewer services, and as there are far fewer bell-ringers anyway they have to go to different places to ring the bells because there is no one else to do it."

He added: "Churches with perfectly workable peals have no one to ring them. We have launched a drive to recruit new ringers, but the problem is not solved yet. There must be at least 100,000 lapsed ringers in Britain, and it could be as many as 250,000. We need to get lapsed ringers back to the belfries.

"Certainly the decline in church attendance cannot have helped and the days when people grew up, lived and died in the same village or town have gone. The pace of modern life means people simply have less leisure time for hobbies."

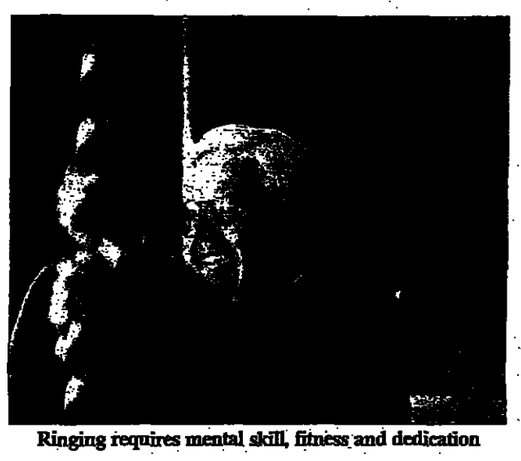
Vaughan Evans, a former secretary of the Handbell Ringers' Association of Great Britain, who is also a church bell-ringer at Grantham, Lincolnshire, said: "We have ten bells in Grantham, but at evensong we are often lucky to get six ringers. The situation is a bit easier in vacations, when young ringers come home from universities."

Brian Threlfall, a member of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, said: "There are certainly more bells than ringers, though the situation changes from locality to locality and from time to time. Some churches with ringable bells will not have their bells rung this Christmas, but it is difficult to know how many."

The Rev Barry Fry, master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild of Church Bell-ringers, and a former tower captain of the ringers at Brockenhurst, Hampshire, said: "We are better off than some other areas, but we will have churches with workable bells and no one to ring them this year. It is early days for the recruitment campaign to show results. It takes time to train people so that they are ringing the bells and not vice versa."

Robert Cater, secretary of the guild, said: "Of 200 churches with ringable bells in our two dioceses, it seems 15 will not be rung this Christmas, which is very sad. We reckon we are 150 ringers short in total, but it only takes one or two families to go away from a parish sometimes to mean the bells cannot be rung at all." Mr Cater, a cathedral ringer at Winchester, expects to be pulling a rope at Hitchin, Hertfordshire, this Christmas.

A practised campanologist said: "Bell-ringing just isn't an easy thing to do. It takes physical and mental skill, co-ordination, fitness and a lot of practice. Few people today are willing to devote the time to learning it and keeping in practice. I have seen thousands of people drift away from it. It is a shame because bell-ringing is part of our heritage and a mechanical carillon is no sort of substitute."



Ringing requires mental skill, fitness and dedication

GILL ALLEN

Boys from the Westminster Cathedral Choir in full voice yesterday at rehearsals for midnight Mass, to be broadcast on BBC1

North leads the last-minute rush

BY A STAFF REPORTER

BANK cash machines ran out of money yesterday at the huge MetroCentre in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, where two car parks were full by nine in morning. "We opened the malls early to let them out of the cold," a spokesman said.

At the Arndale Centre in Manchester, staff said the shops were busier than last week. Jackie Moores, the centre's general manager, said: "We are very busy because some stores have started their sales already."

The Royal Bank of Scotland said withdrawals from its cash machines were up 9 per cent to £263 million in the first 19 days of December compared with last year. The bank's credit card customers spent nearly £125 million in the first 20 days of this month, an increase of 30 per cent on the same period last year.

Shopping malls in the South of England were quieter. The Lakeside Centre at Thurrock, Essex, said: "We are nowhere near as busy as last week. We think most people have done their main shop and now they are going to local shops for last-minute things. We expect our busiest period when the January sales open."

Harrods, in London, said that its sales were brisk. It expected to have a 10 per cent improvement on last year.

Wrap up well for a cold Christmas, forecasters say

BY RUSSELL JENKINS AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

WE can expect a mainly bright and dry Christmas Day but it will be bitterly cold, the London Weather Centre says.

Strong winds across the country, especially in southern regions, will make temperatures of 3C to 4C (37F to 39F) feel much colder — more like -3C (27F).

A dusting of light snow is expected over some parts of Scotland and down the east coast of England to the Wash. Freezing fog will also linger in some parts today, keeping temperatures down. A London Weather Centre spokesman said: "There is every chance of losing your bet if you placed odds on a white Christmas."

Because of the cold snap, three of Scotland's five ski centres are expected to be closed on Christmas Day. A weekend thaw, followed by the sudden freeze, has turned snow to ice, making conditions dangerous on some slopes.

At Glenshee, near Braemar, Glencoe, and the Nevis Range near Fort William, the runs are currently too icy to ski. Lower slopes may open on Boxing Day. Skiers are advised to ring before setting out. The only two centres hoping to be open for sport on Christmas Day are the Lecht Ski Centre in Banffshire and the Cairngorm Ski Centre, near Aviemore.

The great Christmas getaway was in full swing yesterday. Gatwick Airport expects 800,000 passengers over two weeks. Heathrow will have seen more than 791,000 passengers in the six days up to Christmas.

Many Mediterranean resorts have had appalling weather, with gales and torrential rain. A Briton, David Baron, 34, died when he was swept away while swimming off Gran Canaria.

In Britain, rail services will start running down at about 10pm. Apart from the Gatwick Express from Lonon's Victoria station to Gatwick, there will be no trains tomorrow and very few on Boxing Day.

Forecast, page 20

Panto's thin blue lines are banned

SENIOR police officers ordered the removal of "offensive" material from a Christmas pantomime at a station which was recently the subject of a sexual harassment inquiry. The officers at Harrogate were told to tone down their script after a member of North Yorkshire police authority complained that jokes were "sexist, offensive to some and, more importantly, anti-gay".

The show — 2001, A Fruit Cocktail — was organised by the sports and social club and sponsored by local companies and ran for four nights last week. Pantos have been held for six years and £2,000 was raised last year for charities.

The programme featured a spoof memo from the panto sub-committee, urging the writers to remove all references to spanking and self-abuse and banning the pantomime horse from "sporting the genitalia of an African bull elephant".

The order to remove the material was made by the Assistant Chief Constable, Peter Walker. But one officer said: "It was petty and small-minded. There was nothing in the pantomime that you would not see on television. They are always near the knuckle and no one has ever complained before."

Life ban on breeder whose dogs were scared of grass

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A DOG breeder who once produced Cruft's winners was yesterday banned from keeping animals for life, after inspectors discovered West Highland terriers living in squalid conditions at her kennels.

Frieda Cook, 76, was reported to the RSPCA by a woman who saw the conditions at Wandlebury Hill, near Cambridge, when she responded to an advert offering dogs for sale. There was no running water, drinking bowls were empty or covered with algae and three dogs, now at the centre of court charges, were diseased or lame.

Inspector Mark Thompson said he was delighted by yesterday's ban. He had told the court: "We tried to examine 15 other dogs but they were very shy. You would expect show dogs and breeding dogs to come up to you quite naturally, but the closer you got to these the further away they went. The vast majority had fleas and conjunctivitis. The three we took away were frightened of walking on grass. They didn't know what it was."

Cook, who was banned by the Kennel Club seven years ago for similar offences, had been found guilty in her absence at an earlier hearing. After the sentence, she said: "This is a complete travesty of justice. I am very upset at the idea of never having a dog again because they are my life.

"I am totally innocent and would have proved it if I had been allowed to but I could not attend the earlier hearing because I was ill."

She had denied three charges of causing a dog unnecessary suffering, four of administering prescription-only medicines, using a pesticide for other than its purpose and supplying a vaccine not in accordance with a prescription from a vet.

Cook: dogs are my life, she said

Magistrates in Cambridge had heard how one animal found at her kennels was emaciated and lame, while another was covered in fleas and suffering eye and ear infections. Toxic pesticides and flea sprays had been used on her dogs to treat skin conditions, resulting in two of the terriers losing nearly 80 per cent of their hair.

One dog was so undernourished, it was emaciated and lame in a back leg, which needed two operations and swimming sessions to cure. Its sister was also underweight, covered in fleas and with chronic ear and eye infections.

The RSPCA was alerted by Sonja Donnelly, who paid £1,500 for a dog after answering an advert. She found that the dog had a chronic ear infection.

Mrs Donnelly, from Ampthill, Bedfordshire, had demanded the return of her money. She said: "At the kennels, I saw some rusty metal shelters were open to the sides. The dogs had no bedding or water. It was absolutely disgusting."

Capital clampdown on competitions after call-in queen rules the airwaves

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CAPITAL Radio, Britain's leading commercial radio station, is tightening its competition rules after reports that one listener was able to win prizes worth tens of thousands of pounds that included eight foreign holidays and two cars.

The London-based station admitted yesterday that it had no formal rules governing how many prizes any one listener could win, even though such regulations are standard practice among broadcasters. A spokeswoman for Capital, which offers hundreds of thousands of pounds of prizes a year, said it would be easy for somebody to claim prizes under an assumed name because the station asked winners for identification only when they were picking up prizes worth £50,000 or more.

"We don't ask people if they are who they say they are. We always believe 100 per cent that our listeners are honest," she said. The spokeswoman confirmed that the station was now checking allegations that Lynne Andrews, from Langley in Berkshire, had won at least 20 of its phone-in competitions during the past five years, often under assumed names.

The list of prizes under investigation includes holidays in Las Vegas, Bangkok, Greece, Amsterdam, Paris, New York and Venice, as well as a skiing holiday, several trips to West End theatres, two new cars and a number of four-figure cash prizes. "So far, we have only been able to confirm that she has won two of the prizes. One is a cash price of £5,500, which she won two weeks ago, under the name of Trish," the spokeswoman said. "It will take us about two weeks to check the last five years to confirm if she won anything else."

Executives at the station, which has nearly ten million listeners a week, are mystified how one listener could succeed in taking part in so many on-air competitions. Hundreds of listeners from across the South-East of England call the station every day when it is running competitions and the telephone lines quickly jam. Many callers try dozens of times and never even make it through to the studios.

Mrs Langley confirmed she had won "quite a few prizes" but added: "I would rather not say anything."

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Of course, you could play safe and get him another pair of socks this year.

But just try returning them to the shop after 90 days' use and see what reaction you get.

Name
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BRAUN

Holiday chalets are last resort as nimbies threaten plans for new jails to house ever more inmates

Former Pontins camp may be converted into prison

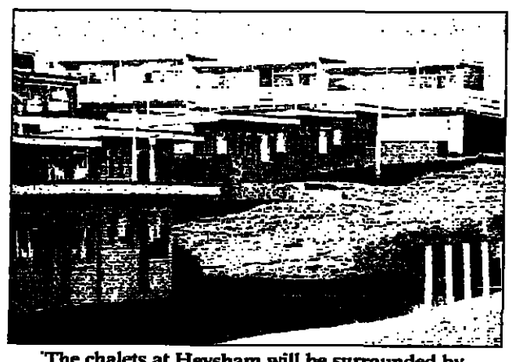
BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISON Service officials are negotiating to buy a disused holiday camp to house up to 700 inmates and ease the growing accommodation crisis in jails. A planning application to convert the former Pontins camp at Heysham, near Morecambe, Lancashire, is the latest in a series of emergency proposals.

The 63-acre site has been empty since the Pontins camp closed two years ago. The move to use it for prisoners was made only days before a decision yesterday by Doncaster council to oppose the proposed conversion into a jail of a former RAF base at Finningley in south Yorkshire.

The opposition in Doncaster is recurring elsewhere as people fight to stop more prisons and centres for persistent young offenders being built in their neighbourhoods.

The Heysham site, near Preston and Haverigg prisons and Lancaster Farms young offender institution, would be converted to hold 400 to 700 low-security category C prisoners. After renovation it could take its first inmates by May next year.



The chalets at Heysham will be surrounded by a five-metre security fence if plans are approved

Before becoming a holiday camp, the site was used by the Ministry of Defence and during the war was an internment camp. Richard Tilt, Director-General of the Prison Service, said the holiday camp was one of a number of options, which included other disused military bases and acquiring a former floating jail moored on the Hudson River near New York. "We look as if we will be back at our full capacity between the middle and end of February.

"We must do everything possible to have accommodation for those sent to us by the courts. We want to avoid using police cells," Mr Tilt said.

A planning application to moor the floating prison, *Resolution*, in Portland harbour has been lodged with the local authority. Prison officials who visited the ship recently believe it meets all their requirements to hold up to 500 low-risk inmates.

But Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "Buying a holiday camp is an act of utter desperation. Right-wing Conservative MPs have often said that prison is like a holiday camp — now it seems to be coming true."

Pontins said yesterday that it had no other sites available. The Heysham site was sold to a private buyer about two years ago and is about half a mile from the nearest homes. The Home Office plan suggests the camp would be used for three years and require about 300 staff.

No new buildings are planned and some existing buildings may have to be demolished. The plan includes a five-metre security fence.

The county council said it planned extensive consultation, with an open meeting for local people. The council would look at the impact on the environment; public safety; the possibility of increased traffic and economic benefits.

The prison population is predicted to reach 60,000 by March, following a seasonal drop to 57,000 this week. A further six prisons are being built or are planned to cope with the increase, arising out of the Government's "prison works" policy, and a further 12 will be needed. Mr Tilt expressed concern at the growing "not in my back yard" opposition to proposed new jails. "The difficulty is that we get driven more and more into remote sites. It is less satisfactory for everything, service, staff and prisoners' families," he said.

In Liverpool up to 50 objections have been lodged against plans to build an extra cell block to hold 118 detainees at the new 600-inmate Altcourse prison at Fazakerley; in Manchester a full planning inquiry has been held into the proposed Agecroft jail at Salford, and the Prison Service has abandoned a site for a new jail at Telford in Shropshire after a geological survey. Work has still to start on building five secure training centres for persistent young offenders aged 12-14.

PETER LOMAS

Cleaners report for duty in the heyday of the holiday camp, where prisoners could soon be slopping out

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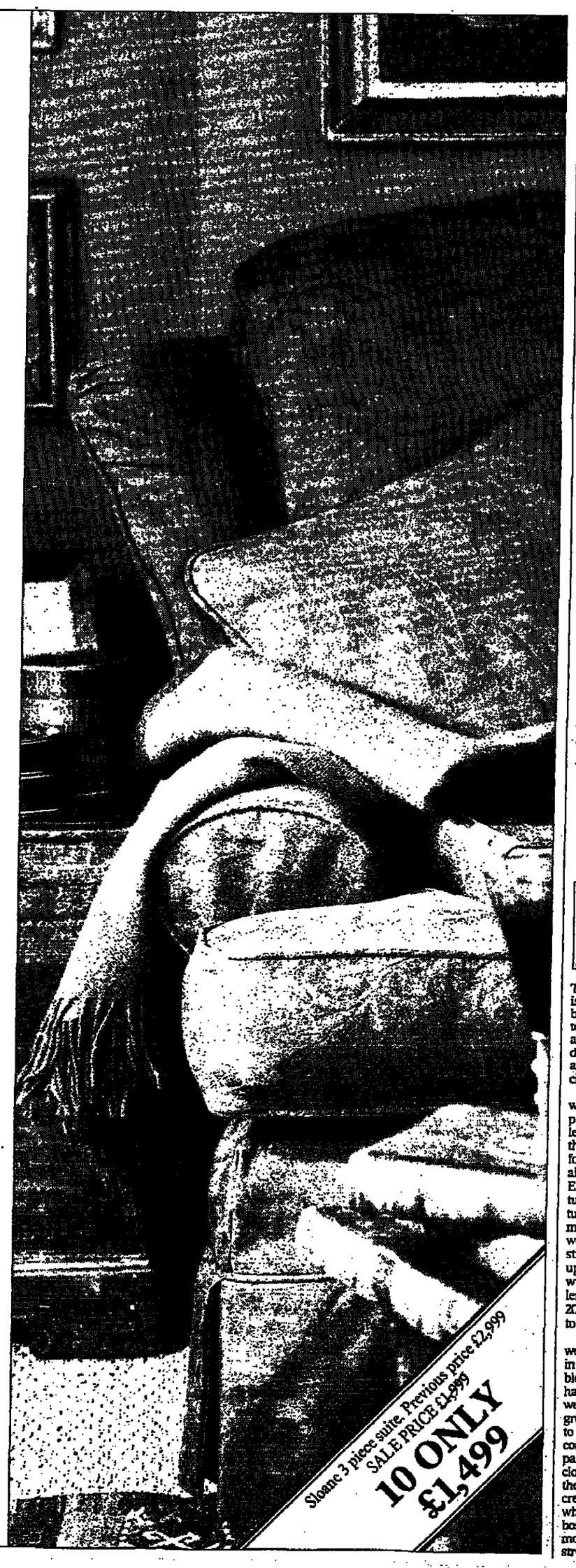


Former Times man tops book list

BY BRIAN MACARTHUR

WITH more than 18,000 copies sold last week of *Notes from a Small Island*, the travel writer Bill Bryson, a former sub-editor on *The Times*, is Britain's bestselling author this Christmas.

Second is Dava Sobel's surprise bestseller *Longitude* (12,280 copies), followed by *Shooting Stars*, the television tie-in from the comedians Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, Dick Francis's *Come to Grief*, Nick Hornby's *High Fidelity* and Nicholas Evans's *The Horse Whisperer*.

More than 66,000 copies of the paperback edition of *Notes From A Small Island*, the British travelogue published by Black Swan, have been sold in the past eight weeks, earning £460,000, according to Whitaker BookTrack, which monitors sales in more than 700 bookshops. *Longitude*, the bestselling hardback, published by Fourth Estate, has earned slightly more — £550,000 since November. *Winnie the Pooh: Now We Are Seventy* was the bestselling children's book.

The figures demonstrate the importance of Christmas to the book trade. At the beginning of November, sales were running at £10 million a week. Last week they were worth £26 million.

Archbishop appeals to 'spiritual refugees'

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

MANY people today are "spiritual refugees" who have lost their moral and spiritual roots, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dr George Carey, referring to the plight of the refugees of Rwanda on this morning's *Thought for the Day* on BBC Radio 4, said: "Jesus was not born in a refugee camp but it was the next thing to it."

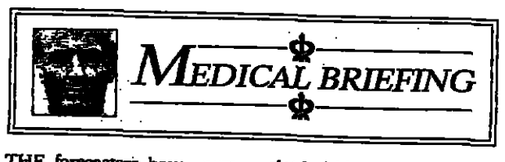
The crisis in Rwanda and the birth of Christ made him wonder at the number of lost people in the world today. "They may have comfortable homes and friends around," Dr Carey said, "but they are spiritual refugees, sometimes aware in their heart of hearts that they are living in another kind of transit camp."

Dr Carey continued: "So many people in our society have lost their religious and moral roots. They have lost their place in a shared understanding of what life is for, pursuing short-term happiness but often failing to find spiritual fulfilment."

Christmas was a chance to take stock. "There are many who stay in today's spiritual refugee camp. They have been there so long that they have forgotten about the country Christian people call home, the one where God is King."

Archbishop of York, page 6

Cautionary tales to chill the blood



THE forecasters have promised a cold Christmas, with biting east winds. This will test the coronary arteries of anybody with cardiovascular disease, whether or not they are aware of the state of their circulation.

When I was a country GP it was comparatively easy to prepare for most of the problems occasioned by hard weather, but impossible to allow for the upset to routine invariably caused by a cold snap. Elderly patients fell and fractured bones; cases of flu turned to pneumonia. The most common emergencies were heart attacks and strokes. Both are more likely up to 48 hours after a patient with a cardiovascular problem has been severely chilled; 20 minutes' chilling is enough to cause the damage.

Problems caused by cold weather are related to changes in the mechanisms involved in blood clotting. When someone has been exposed to very cold weather, the blood clots with greater ease thereafter for 36 to 48 hours as the platelet count (platelets are the small particles involved in blood clotting), the red cell count and the fibrinogen levels are increased. They are all factors which make coronary thrombosis or an ischaemic stroke more likely. An ischaemic stroke results from a wayward clot blocking a cerebral blood vessel, whereas other strokes are caused when a cerebral vessel ruptures.

Other patients become casualties while shovelling snow. This is a job for younger members of the family, whose arteries are wide open and whose coronary circulation is smooth-flowing. Younger members should also fetch the wood or coal at night, as leaving a fireside to cross a dark, windswept yard is asking for trouble.

A car that has been left out overnight in several degrees of frost can seem as cold as a household deepfreeze. Nobody would put a middle-aged or elderly patient with a suspect circulation into a deepfreeze, nor should they expect someone with cardiovascular problems to sit in an ice-cold car while it warms up.

The temperature of the air which is breathed in is also important. In a cold wind, angina can often be prevented by wearing a scarf over the mouth so that the air is trapped and warmed before it is inhaled. If central heating were left on at night, the number of early-morning heart attacks would be reduced.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Family see girl, 6, killed by Christmas tree lights

By Ian Key

A GIRL aged six was electrocuted in front of her family as they gathered to watch her turn on the lights of their Christmas tree.

Cara Weatherstone stood with her bare foot on a copper gas pipe to reach the switch for the fairy lights, which were plugged into a table lamp. Her parents and six brothers and sisters were helpless as she suffered a 240-volt shock.

One sister, Fiona, 14, tried to pull her away, but was unable to save her. The little girl, described as happy and popular by neighbours and teachers in Hornsea, East Yorkshire, was dead on arrival at hospital.

Her grandfather, George Weatherstone, 67, said: "It's such a tragedy. She was a wonderful little girl. I wish it had been me instead. She had turned the lights on many times before.

"It was just unfortunate that she had her bare foot on the pipe to the gas fire. She was earthed and she could not be thrown off by the shock. The current grabbed her.

"Fiona tried to push her off and got a tingle herself and then Cara fell off. The whole family saw it but could do nothing. The only mercy is that she would have died instantly and felt nothing.

"It is a tragic accident. Cara was a very well-behaved girl, like her brothers and sisters. All the children knew right from wrong and did not mess around with dangerous things."

Cara Weatherstone: a happy and popular girl

The lights had been used for the past four years and they had been tried out already this year before the child's planned starring role in the family ceremony.

Her father, Anthony, 40, a chef at a remand centre, and her mother, Beverley, 38, were confronting their grief and trying to prepare Christmas for their remaining children Nicky, 15, Fiona, Arron 12, Maxine, 10, Yvonne, 5, and Marcus, 18 months.

The parents issued a statement saying: "We are all trying to come to terms with what has happened. In the interests of our children and relatives, we would ask for some time to ourselves so that we can continue with our lives, and more importantly the Christmas period, which of course will be a difficult period for us all."

Investigators from Yorkshire Electricity and trading standards officers were examining the lights and the wiring yesterday and will prepare reports for the coroner. A post-mortem examination will be held later.

Inspector Dennis Cheater of Hornsea police said the children would be interviewed, but added: "It is a very, very tragic accident.

"This is a terrible thing to happen, but it is particularly poignant at this time of year. The house wiring and the lamp that the lights were plugged into are all going to be examined by electricity and trading standards officers. We are hopeful that that will give us a better idea of what happened."

He urged all parents to be very careful in wiring fairy lights: "The obvious warning is be very careful when you're wiring up Christmas lights because you're dealing with electricity and it can kill. If you're not sure, consult an electrician."

The dead child was remembered fondly in the neighbourhood. Janice Watson, 44, a neighbour, said: "This has devastated us all. Cara was special, a little angel. She was a happy, loveable soul."

Derek Nightingale, head teacher at the Hornsea school, said: "She was a beautiful little girl — smiling, happy, cheerful and hardworking. She was popular and I can think of a number of little friends who will be devastated by this.

"We had just said goodbye to them the day before — all these happy little faces going home for Christmas and then something like this happens. You don't believe that it can happen to one of the children in your care. We're all very upset — I think of her little smiling face and then I think 'God, I'll never see her again'."

Cara, second left, front row, in a recent family portrait with her parents, Beverley and Anthony Weatherstone, with baby Marcus and four of their five other children. They could all only watch as Cara was electrocuted

SAFETY GUIDE

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents advises parents to follow these guidelines on festive lights:

- Make sure fairy lights conform to British Standard 464 and preferably carry the kite mark.
- Always inspect them to make sure wires have not been pulled loose and that there are no cracks in bulbs.
- Always turn off and unplug lights before changing a bulb or making any changes.
- Lights should not be placed near anything combustible.
- Never use Christmas tree lights outside.
- If they show signs of wear, consider replacing them.
- All lights should come with a pre-packaged plug and correct fuse.
- Do not run cables under carpets or leave them in an area where they can be tripped over.
- Do not leave lights on if you go out.

Wanted: ways to spend £20m on the millennium

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

AT LEAST £20 million from the National Lottery will be made available to fund local celebrations of the millennium all around the country, the Millennium Commission said yesterday.

In spite of continued uncertainty about the future of the £700 million Millennium Exhibition, planned to be built at Greenwich, on the banks of the Thames, a spokeswoman for the commission said that a string of smaller-scale projects, to be known collectively as the Millennium Festival, would go ahead.

Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, will launch a consultation paper on the festival next Monday and will invite suggestions from interested parties on how the money can best be spent.

The Millennium Commission spokeswoman said that the money was not likely to be used to fund street parties. "There could be local celebrations linked to new buildings and capital projects built with Millennium Commission money," she said. "We are inviting suggestions."

The commission is clearly hoping that grassroots enthusiasm for the Millennium Festival will outweigh growing public and political scepticism about the troubled Millennium Exhibition.

Organisers of the £700 million exhibition admitted yesterday that they were attempting to slice £100 million off their proposed budget in an eleventh-hour attempt to win the Labour Party's support for the event.

At present the commission has promised to give £200 million of lottery money to the event, with the private sector putting up £150 million and the remaining £350 million comming from other income, including ticket sales.

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, said at the weekend that Labour would support the project only when it had a "realistic" budget. He had previously indicated that the Labour Party would not be prepared to support the exhibition until it had a firm limit on liability.

Staff at the Millennium Commission who are now working with consultants employed by Millennium Central, the exhibition's operating company, believe that significant savings can be made on the project without damaging its centrepiece, a huge dome built next to the Thames at Greenwich.

"It may be possible to reduce the infrastructure, possibly by not building additional piers on to the waterfront and by not building any other pavilions," a spokesman for Millennium Central said. "But it would be hoped that the inherent nature of the project remains the same."

Cost savings are also expected to follow from the Government's decision last week to transfer Millennium Central from the private to the public sector. That will enable some government departments to take on some of the costs.

Tenders for construction managers' positions and for various building materials went out last weekend but it is feared that the project will not be completed on time unless the final approval for the project is given by the end of Janaury.

☐ Nearly one third of the British people would consider visiting the Millennium Exhibition during 2000 if the project went ahead, according to a poll published yesterday.

The NOP survey, conducted by Greenwich council, predicted that the total number of British visitors during the year-long event could exceed 14 million. About half the visitors would come from the North and the Midlands, with 7.03 million coming from the South.

Len Duvall, leader of Greenwich council, said that the survey of 986 people aged 15 and over demonstrated that the exhibition had nationwide support.

"It is important that the Millennium Exhibition is a national celebration," he said. "In a few days there will be New Year's Eve celebrations and it doesn't take a lot to imagine how significant the new millennium will be for the country from which the world measures the passage of time."

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Hidden behind headlines, love is still the best news

Credo

David Hope

Despite considerable differences in the background, style and content of the accounts of Jesus's birth in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, both are clear that the birth took place almost unnoticed.

The Emperor Augustus missed it completely, understandably preoccupied with holding the disparate Roman Empire together. He was certainly too busy to worry about what was going on in a cowshed in a forlorn and faraway place. Though not so far away, Herod missed it too, obsessed with his own power games, finding out too late and then responding with butchery rather than wonder. When it was right under his nose, the innkeeper missed it, dazzled by the roaring trade that the census had brought, no room for God made flesh. All of this is part of the mystery of the Christmas story. They all missed it.

The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem happened nevertheless; God came and broke history in two. But if the event of all time could be so obviously missed, it makes me wonder what we are missing today, of which we should be aware.

The headlines during 1996 have been generally depressing. They have homed in on the prospect of monetary union and the advent of the euro: widespread unrest in the former Soviet bloc; carnage in Africa; election fever in America, already beginning to break out here; recession giving way to the "feel-good" factor — or maybe not. But what are we missing that has not grabbed the headlines day after day?

There can be no doubt that much of the talk has been about morality — values, standards and behaviour. The authentic voices have emerged from where perhaps we might least have expected them: from martyrdom, from bloody massacre and from suffering; from people and places where the destructiveness of human wickedness and sinfulness has been powerfully challenged and paid for at a price beyond all telling, in order that God's goodness and ours might continue to be asserted and endorsed.

One such voice is that of Frances Lawrence, who used the pages of this newspaper to call for a reformation of society with an emphasis on moral and spiritual values. Her challenge has struck deep chords within us all. Do we respond with conviction or miss the opportunity? The tragedy at Dunblane hit the headlines too, a modern-day Herod massacring the innocent.

What then about the tremendous wonder of childhood, the sheer gift that childhood brings? Jesus puts it to us that unless we ourselves become as little children, we shall never enter the kingdom of God.

The two days following Christmas, Stephen's martyrdom and the Massacre of the Innocents, cast a long shadow over the manger at Bethlehem and our celebration of Christ's birth. They are a reminder to us of the potential within the heart of humanity for evil as well as good, and the consequences of making such choices not only for ourselves but also for others.

But the darkness of this shadow can never overcome the hope and promise which the Christ child still offers for our society and world. Bethlehem is God's way of loving. In spite of all the talk and the debate about morality, we should beware lest we simply shape another idol in our own image. Only God can make us moral and he does so not by chiding or cajoling us, but by loving us endlessly, eternally. In Christ, God has acted towards us. He has set before us His way, which protests against our being conformed to this world and which calls for a transformation through the renewal of heart, mind and soul — the deep-down things of the spirit, so that we "may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect".

The Prologue of John's Gospel, so familiar from our carol services, is a profound statement about the being and presence of God in the world. It is an eternal presence — God still happens, whether we notice Him or not. Even so, giving ourselves the space to look beyond the headlines and to see Him can yield our lives an ultimate purpose, rather than the disharmony and cacophony which comes from missing Him.

Can we steal away from the treadmill for a moment, pause amidst the busyness and simply wonder? Shepherds with a little time to spare while their flocks slept and kings gazing into skies discovered what everyone else seems to have missed. In the darkness of our streets, the everlasting light still shines.

If only we could open our eyes and see.

☐ *Dr David Hope is Archbishop of York.*

From pear trees to leaping lords, shopping without frontiers cuts the cost of the 12 days of Christmas

Why true lovers should put their faith in Europe

By Robin Young

THE cost of a true lovers' Christmas has been dramatically reduced this year by an inspired burst of Euro enthusiasm.

In the past, true lovers may have shown a certain British reserve in their shopping trips for the gifts listed in the traditional song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. For 24 years — since just before Britain joined the then Common Market — *The Times* has estimated the price of the gifts each festive season, and the purchases have been assumed to be on the home market. But not this year.

For a true lover, the world should surely be his oyster — or, if not the world, then at least the European Union. And it was definitely time for him to try a little variety in his Christmas. Having the same old list every year hardly counts as impulse-buying.

The result would make any lovestruck swain a fully committed pro-European. His bill is less than it has been since the early Eighties.

The change began with the three French hens. Hitherto, the true lover has tried getting them, free-range but dead and oven-ready, from Tesco. On other occasions, more prettily, he has bought live birds in fancy French breeds.

This year he coupled a business-like approach with a touch of Gallic exoticism, buying his poultry wholesale — a box of 30 — from specialist producers just across the Channel in Licques, near Calais. After all, the original version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* is believed to have been French.

Once thus started on a continental shopping spree, there was no holding him. The partridges were found cheapest in Gijon in northern Spain, while the pear trees came most economically from a Belgian nursery capable of supplying half-standards, a cheaper form apparently largely abandoned by British nurserymen, and in a choice of 60 different varieties.

The turtle doves, a protected species, remained a problem, but the pet shops in Spain and Greece promised that they could supply appropriate birds at the equivalent of £10 a pair less than the lover paid last year. Four colly birds we have always taken to be blackbirds, another protected species. Sometimes the lover has made do with hypothetical purchases from British cagebird breeders who seldom, in fact, have any stock available to sell.

On other occasions, he has been obliged to accept stuffed birds, which are usually grisly road accidents resurrected to a semblance of still life by the taxidermist's art. The opening of the French market, keen both on cage birds and taxidermy, offers savings on either sort.

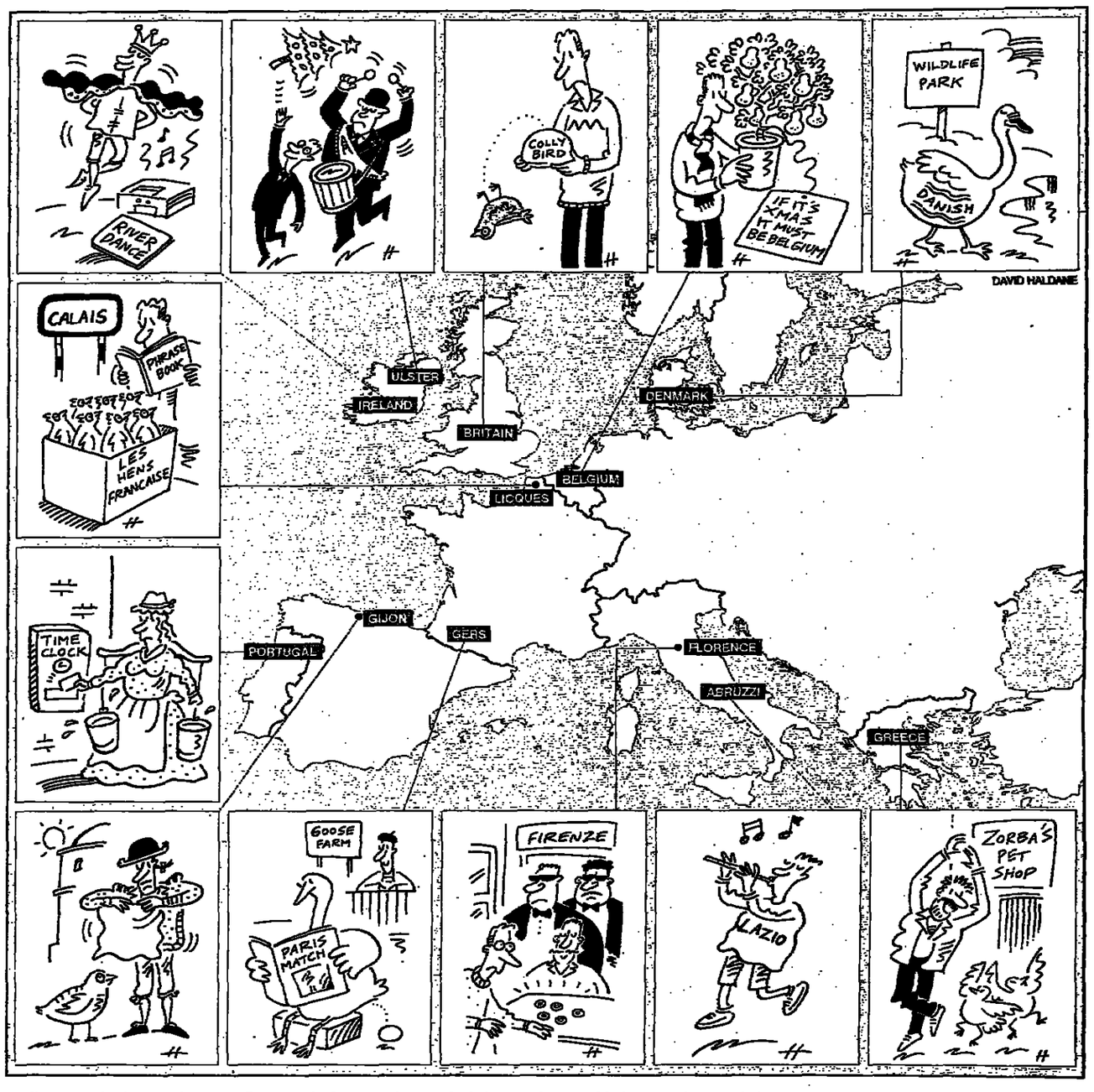
Five gold rings, needed on eight days to make a total purchase of 40, saw keen competition from airport duty-free shops, jewellery wholesalers in centres such as Amsterdam, and backstreet traders. The contract was finally won by an Italian in Florence who happened to have a job lot of nine-carat signet rings available at a bargain price.

Geese a-laying have been such a difficulty that, like the swans a-swimming, the enamoured lover has often tried adopting them on behalf of the object of his affections through schemes run by the Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust. In Britain, farmyard geese do not start laying until February.

Prospects are brighter, geese cheaper, laying earlier and available wholesale, in the goose-farming *département* of Gers in south-west France.

This year's swans came at a bargain price from a wildlife park in Denmark with excess stock. The costs are dearer than adoption, but the live birds possibly preferable, even though the lady will now have to look after 42 of each.

The eight maids a-milking could be recruited in Portugal at hourly rates which make even the pitiful sums dictated by British wage agreements seem greedy, while nine drummers drumming could surely be drummed up in Ulster, outside the marching season, at no expense at all.



Similarly, the lords a-leaping are this year going to be Irish peers, sporting fellows with no parliamentary expenses to claim, who will doubtless do the necessary jumping for the pure fun of it.

The ten pipers piping offered a wide choice of options to replace the Caledonian mercenaries who, thanks to Musicians' Union rates, have profited hugely from the lover's call for their services in past years. Last year, the Scots Guards charged £65 a man per appearance.

This year there were far lower bids from bagpipers in Brittany, Greece, Scandinavia and Italy, finally settled by a band of pipers from the Abruzzo mountain region of Italy who pointed out that ten of their number could be heard on three separate CDs, one for each of three days, at a total cost as low as £19.25. That reduced the pipers' bill to less than 1 per cent of last year's charge.

That precedent persuaded the lover that his girlfriend could also well do without 11 ladies tripping about the place in person for two days on end. He bought their performance on a couple of rather delightful videos instead, saving further thousands of pounds at a stroke. Finally, the true lover has a new love: the euro. A single currency would, he calculates, have saved him a further £78 in commission and currency exchange costs, without taking into account the small sums of foreign money he is left with at the end of his trading. As it is, though, his move into Europe has made the Christmas shopping business a lot more fun and made the total cost lower than any year since 1982, which was a particularly thrifty time when the sum was held down to £4,970.12.

Last-minute, page 11

ADDING UP THE PRICE OF TRUE LOVE

In the table below exchange rates are tourist rates applying on December 17.

	1994 £	1995 £	1996 £
A partridge	54.00	47.88	38.90
In a pear tree, on 12 days	108.00	150.00	97.46
Two turtle doves, on 11 days	330.00	440.00	327.87
Three French hens, on 10 days	117.30	600.00	173.49
Four colly birds, on 9 days	720.00	3,600.00	846.23
Five gold rings, on 8 days	199.60	560.00	300.48
Six geese a-laying, on 7 days	630.00	840.00	1,046.23
Seven swans a-swimming, on 6 days	1,050.00	1,050.00	3,360.48
Eight maids a-milking, for 5 days	110.40	113.60	88.56
Nine drummers drumming, on 4 days	1,242.00	2,340.00	Nil
Ten pipers piping, on 3 days	1,095.00	1,950.00	19.25
Eleven ladies dancing, for 2 days	2,189.00	2,750.00	29.98
Twelve lords a-leaping, day's expenses	384.00	398.00	Nil
Totals	8,199.30	14,837.48	6,028.93

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Grisly trophy is first step in educating children about endangered species

By Daniel McGrory

THE children were nervous at first and nudged each other forward, not wanting to get too close to the severed elephant's foot on the floor of the school assembly hall.

Slowly the group of seven-year-olds alked around the stump and stared up at Sarah Cross, Tusk Force's regional educational co-ordinator, as she told them how the foot had recently been smuggled into Heathrow Airport.

One boy reached out to stroke the wrinkled grey hide and asked what the smuggler had wanted with such a thing. When Ms Cross explained that it would be sold as a wastepaper bin or an umbrella stand the children grimaced and stared at the video recording of an elephant herd making a noisy and magnificent entrance into a woodland clearing.

For the next hour the questions flew round the classroom of the St Bonaventure's Primary School in east Glasgow as Ms Cross displayed the rest of her horrific collection of trophies, recently seized by customs officers in this country. The children ran their hands along the metre-long elephant's tusk; they pulled faces when told the bear paws were served up in soup as an Asian gastronomic treat. The most hideous exhibit was a capacious handbag made from an entire crocodile skin, complete with head.

Jungle story: Tusk Force presents the grim reality of poaching

Tusk Force believes the work it is doing in more than 10,000 British schools is as important as any of its projects in the wild. "We have to educate the next generation to help us now or some of the species they see won't be around for as long as them," Ms Cross said.

"You have to explain that unless we change our ways the only place they might see tigers, elephants and bears could be in the museums. The youngsters are more passionate about animals than most adults."

Invariably it is the statistics of slaughter the children best remember: half the 1.2 million elephant population wiped out in 30 years; fewer than 5,000 Siberian tigers left in the world, and only 11,000 black rhino. When Ms Cross asks how much poachers get for a rhino horn a chorus of voices reply: "£21,000 a kilo." Her next question was what poachers made out of ivory and an eight-year-old boy shouted back "an absolute fortune".

Tusk Force also teaches children about endangered species in their own backyard. "They knew about the otter, the golden eagle and the red squirrel but they were genuinely upset to learn that creatures like the dormouse, the water vole and the wildcat are in as much danger," Ms Cross said.

Tusk Force began its endangered species education programme in 1995 and saw it greeted with enormous enthusiasm by head teachers and school pupils. The charity has introduced a competition for children aged from 5 to 16 to devise their own project to protect wildlife.

"What must give us hope is that if the future of the world's endangered species were already in the hands of today's children the danger facing thousands of species would not be as critical as it is," Ms Cross said.

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THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL TUSK FORCE ACTIVELY PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES

Rebels free 225 captives to dig in for long siege

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI, IN LIMA, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PERUVIAN guerrillas yesterday released 225 hostages from the residence of the Japanese Ambassador in Lima.

There was little hope, however, of an end to the week-long siege as the left-wing Tupac Amarú terrorists held on to 140 Peruvian officials and Japanese businessmen.

"The fact that they have released two-thirds of the hostages means in effect that they've pared it down to a number they can control," Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, said. "To that extent the tension has increased."

The 225 hostages — who included two Britons, Roger Church, 50, the deputy head of mission at the British Embassy, and David Griffith, 56, general manager of a Lima hotel — were freed unexpectedly early yesterday. They walked out of the besieged building in single file and were led into buses to be driven to a military hospital for check-ups before returning to their families.

Initial optimism quickly gave way to the realisation that the release was part of a wider tactic by the rebels. With fewer captives, the guerrillas are better prepared to withstand a long siege, and have strengthened their ability to control the situation inside the building.

They have kept their most valuable captives, such as Francisco Tudela, the Peruvian Foreign Minister, and Máximo Riverò, the chief of the anti-terrorist police.

The Red Cross said 140 men were still being held. The ambassadors from Japan, Malaysia, Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay are also among the hostages. President Fujimori's younger brother, Pedro, is also being held, the President's former wife, Susana Higuchi, was quoted as saying.

The rebels, who seized the building last Tuesday during a party to celebrate Emperor Akihito's birthday, are demanding the release of about 300 jailed comrades. President Fujimori has refused. The freed hostages said the 20 or so guerrillas had explosives strapped around their waists. "If one of the explosive packs explodes, there will be nothing left of the embassy building. It would cause death and destruction all around," said Alejandro Toledo, a Peruvian economist who was freed.

The rebels seem to be a well-trained suicide squad. "The rooms are mined and the roof is mined. The building is a time bomb. Any rescue mission would cause a bloodbath," Señor Toledo said.

In a message read out before the release began, a guerrilla representative insisted on their key demand for the freeing of hundreds of comrades before they let the remaining hostages go. However, President Fujimori is not expected to retreat from his tough line. He completely ruled out any deal with the guerrillas, so that the siege appears destined to become a gruelling affair.

Eduardo Marou, a Lima university lecturer who was among those freed, said most of the hostages spent their six days in captivity cleaning bathrooms and holding political debates with their captors. Conditions were cramped, with one 25-square-yard room holding approximately 50 people. Reading material was limited as most of it was in Japanese. The hostages slept in rows, with the guerrillas slumped into the corner to keep guard.

BLAKE SELL / REUTER

Two of the 225 hostages who were released unexpectedly early yesterday show their relief as they are driven by bus from the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima

Roger Church, left, is greeted by John Illman, the British Ambassador, after his release yesterday

Released Britons describe six-day hostage ordeal

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI

ROGER CHURCH, the deputy head of mission at the British Embassy in Peru, heaved a sigh of relief last night after his six-day hostage ordeal at the hands of Tupac Amarú guerrillas: "I am just glad to be out and able to spend Christmas with my wife and children".

His voice shook and his hands trembled but he looked remarkably composed. "We went through a very difficult few days," he said. "Obviously my thoughts are with those who are still in captivity and I hope their fate can be resolved soon through negotiations."

Mr Church, 50, married with two children, was among the 225 hostages freed by the gunmen on Sunday. He was one of two Britons held at gunpoint by Marxist rebels who are occupying the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima.

The other Briton, David Griffith, who is married to a Peruvian and is the general manager of the five-star Hotel de Las Americas, in Lima, was also freed unharmed.

Mr Griffith spoke of his "relief" at being released as he was driven from the Japanese Ambassador's residence in one of five buses which carried freed hostages to a nearby hospital for a check-up. "I am so glad this has ended for some of us, but we'll not stop thinking about those still inside," he said.

Short of food and drink, they slept in cramped rooms guarded by rebels with 30lb of explosives strapped around their waists, and machineguns hanging from their arms. At night they sat in darkness, and in the daytime they shared a handful of bathrooms with hundreds of other hostages.

"I really hope this [siege] is going to be resolved with talks. That's the only feasible way out," said Mr Church outside the British Embassy in Lima. "The rebels are ready to talk and the Peruvian Government is prepared to negotiate. I am sure they want to avoid a violent end."

Fellow hostages said Mr Griffith had been in charge of organising 50 men in one room. "David made sure tempers did not flare," said Francisco Sagasti, a Peruvian economist, who was also released.

Satanic sect raided by child-sex police

FROM LEYLA LINTON IN BRUSSELS

THE high priestess of a Satanic sect yesterday denied that her organisation had any links with Marc Dutroux, the self-confessed paedophile and killer, being held on suspicion of the murder of four girls.

Dominique Kindermans said neither M Dutroux nor Bernard Weinstein, the accomplice he has admitted murdering, had been members of the Institut Abrasax, a legal organisation set up in 1990 that teaches sorcery and initiation into Satanic rites. "We do not know anything about these people," she said.

Police investigating Belgium's child-sex and murder scandal raided the Institut's premises at Forchies-la-Marche, near Charleroi, at the weekend. More than 100 investigators spent more than eight hours there on Saturday night, searching and removing black magic ritual implements and daggers, swords, video cassettes and a refrigerator containing frozen blood that Mrs Kindermans says she bought from a butcher.

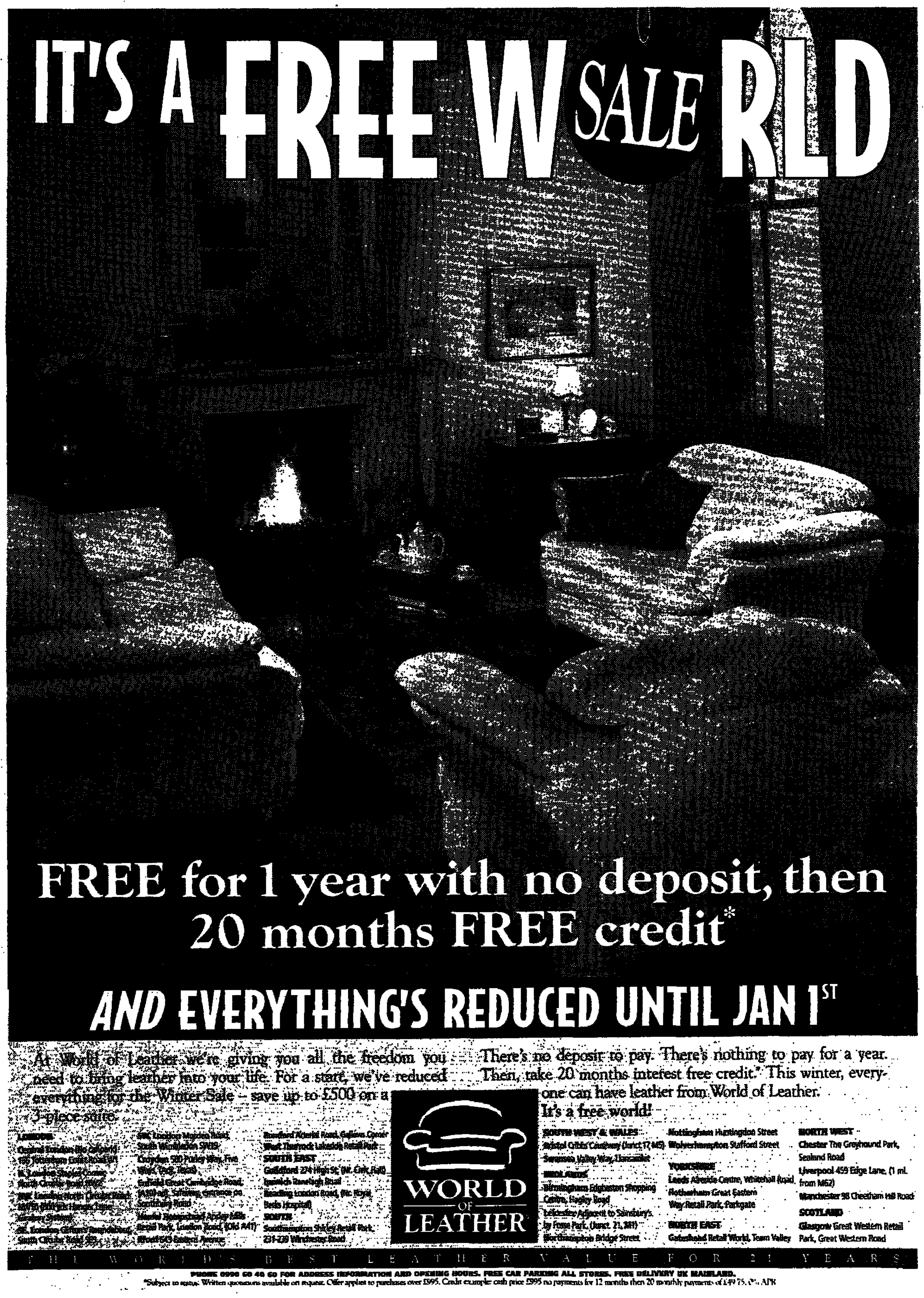
No arrests were made. Mrs Kindermans said she found the search "terrifying".

Jacques Langlois, the judicial investigator in the Dutroux case, ordered the raid after police found an undated letter at Weinstein's house believed to be from the sect's Grand Master, Belgian television reported.

In the letter "Anubis", an ancient Egyptian god, asks "Bernard" not to forget "the special present" he had promised the high priestess for an "important ceremony".

Michel Bourlet, the public prosecutor, who yesterday visited the abandoned Jumet mineshaft where police believe Mr Dutroux may have hidden children or their bodies, refused to confirm a link between that case and the sect.

Gendarmes pumped water from a flooded chamber in the mine yesterday and will continue the search on Friday.



Foie gras imports feed Gallic spleen

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S traditional Christmas is under attack with cheap foie gras from Eastern Europe flooding the country's dinner tables and animal rights militants calling for a boycott of the product.

Producers of goose and duck liver say they are unable to compete with rivals from countries such as Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania, which have flooded the French market in recent years.

They want the European Union to impose clear labelling, confident that French consumers will avoid products that they know to be foreign.

Foie gras is a traditional Christmas delicacy in France, where people appear to remain largely insensitive to the campaigns against it by animal rights activists. Despite newspaper advertisements urging a boycott because of the way geese and ducks are forced-fed, demand has increased.

The French get through 10,000 tonnes of it a year, mostly at Christmas, when they pay Fr100 (£11.50) for a small tin in a supermarket and up to Fr750 for a terrine in a Parisian delicatessen.

"The activists have had only a minor effect in France and our sales have doubled over the last five years," said Serge Chambert, director of the Foie Gras Association in the Gers county, southwest France.

However, if the animal rights groups have failed to shake his confidence, the Hungarians, Bulgarians and Romanians appeared to have succeeded. About a fifth of the foie gras consumed in France is of Eastern European origin. But it is tinned in France and described as French.

"It is 20 per cent cheaper than anything we produce and although we have brought down our prices, we will never be able to be competitive," M Chambert said. "They have cheap labour and low taxes."

M Chambert wants Brussels to make it illegal for Eastern European goose and duck livers to be labelled as French, even if they are processed in France.

The French Government, aware that any attack on foie gras is likely to be seen by voters as an assault on the Gallic way of life, is backing the producers' demand.

Yeltsin returns to Kremlin with goal of fitter economy

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN returned triumphantly to the Kremlin yesterday declaring that he was "ready for battle" and extending an invitation to John Major to visit Moscow in the new year.

After nearly half a year's absence from his Kremlin office, the Russian leader looked slow but steady as he emerged unassisted from a limousine and was greeted by his staff. In brief remarks to waiting journalists, he said he was confident that the lives of his countrymen would improve in the new year.

However, the Russian leader looked a shadow of the energetic figure who crisscrossed Russia during last summer's punishing election campaign, when he inspired the support of the people and secured his re-election.

On his first day back at the job, he received a 20-minute telephone call from Mr Major welcoming him back to work. Mr Yeltsin asked the Prime Minister to Russia next year, an invitation which he has already extended to President Clinton, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac.

While his telephone discussion on foreign policy issues may help to reassure Western powers that the Kremlin leader is firmly back in power, the real test will be his ability to tackle pressing domestic problems. Mr Yeltsin has made it clear that his priority is to resolve the country's economic and social ills, underscored yesterday by figures revealing that Russia's gross domestic product had shrunk another 6 per cent this year.

He has also committed himself to defusing the crisis in the military and criticism of the way the country was run during his absence, directed particularly at Anatoli Chubais, head of the Kremlin administration.

Within hours the Russian leader was on the receiving end of opposition gibes, largely halted during his prolonged sickness. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader who stood against him in July's elections, said the Kremlin leader was in no condition to deal with any of the problems affecting the country today. "Even when he was healthy and sober, he could not come up with an answer to any of the issues facing Russia," Mr Zyuganov said.

Mr Yeltsin yesterday: confident of progress

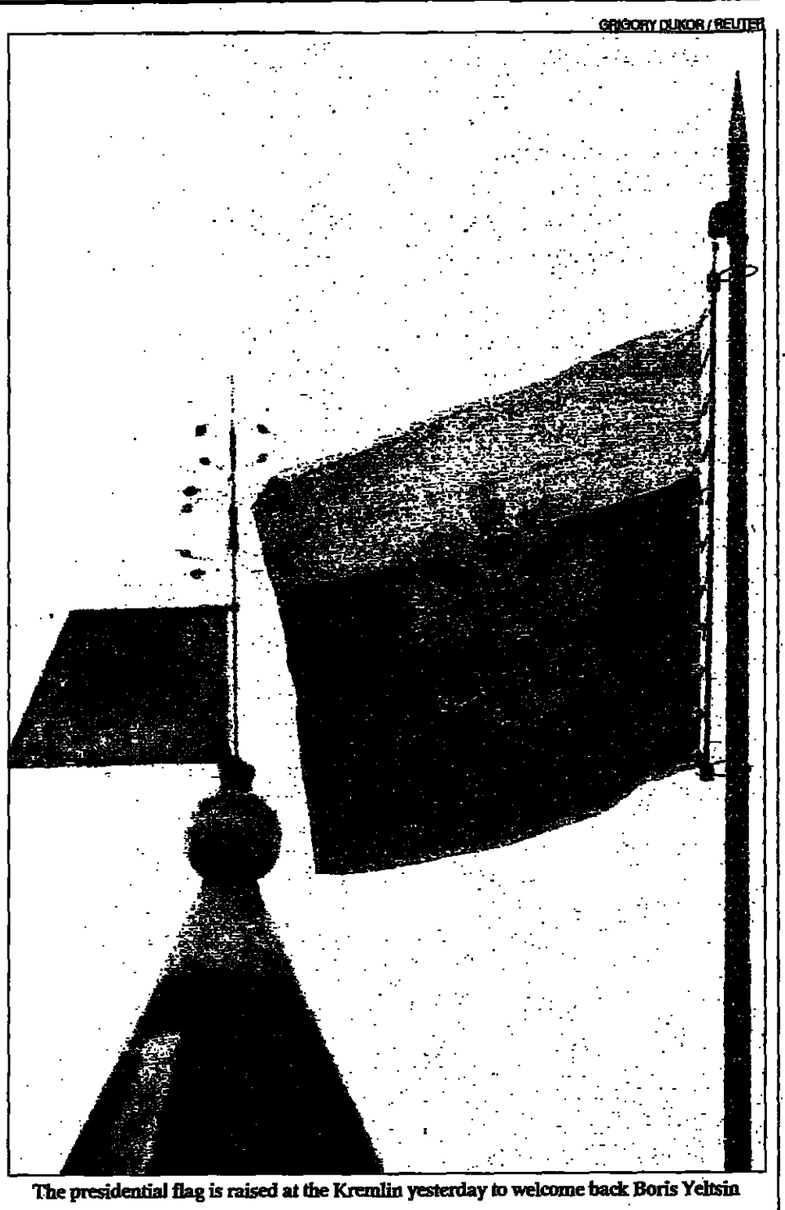
The President's doctors remained confident, however, that in spite of his shaky appearance yesterday the Russian leader will soon be back to strength and can expect to lead a normal working life for years to come.

Michael DeBakey, the pioneering American heart doctor who advised on the multiple bypass operation, said Mr Yeltsin should be able to work an eight-hour day and be back to full strength within a month or two.

"I wrote him a personal note recently that, on the basis of our experience, there is no reason why he should not be able to live a normal life, including working, for the next ten years," the heart surgeon told the BBC. "His heart condition is now virtually normal."

☐ **Ship blaze:** One crew member was killed when a fire broke out on board a nuclear-powered Russian icebreaker yesterday. Tass said the shipping company reported that the nuclear reactor powering the ship was not affected by the fire and there was no radiation leak. *(Reuter)*

GRIGORY DUKOR / REUTER



The presidential flag is raised at the Kremlin yesterday to welcome back Boris Yeltsin

Nine die in fire at hospital

Hamburg: Nine German women died in a fire that destroyed a psychiatric hospital dormitory in the small north German town of Rickling, police said yesterday.

The patients who died late on Sunday were aged between 55 and 85. Police said arson could not be ruled out. At first it was thought that only two people had been killed, but seven more bodies were discovered yesterday in the smouldering remains of the building.

Twenty-three people who lived in the wooden hospital were rescued from the building safely. *(Reuter)*

Hutus arrested over genocide

Ngara, Tanzania: The Rwandan authorities have arrested at least 500 of the 340,000 Hutu refugees who returned from Tanzania this month, UN officials said.

A UN official said the refugees were arrested in northeast Rwanda in connection with the 1994 genocide of about 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus. A Hutu refugee lobby group, the Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy to Rwanda, denounced the "false allegations". *(Reuter)*

Bonino voted top European

Brussels: Emma Bonino, 48, was voted European of the Year (Leyla Linton writes). The jury said she showed "courage, determination and great strength of character" as EU Commissioner for Fisheries; Humanitarian Aid and Consumer Policy. She is noted for backing Spanish fishermen against the British and advocating and practising abortion. The award is organised by *La Vie*, a French Roman Catholic magazine.

Bonino: backs Spanish

Mutineers hold leader over truce

Bangui: Army mutineers in the Central African Republic have detained Captain Anicet Saulet, their leader, for signing a deal extending a truce in Bangui, the capital, by one month. Elsewhere, hundreds of residents in rebel strongholds in the city's southern districts marched to demand a quick and permanent end to the mutiny that has disrupted their lives. *(Reuter)*

Singer collapses at White House

Washington: Tony Bennett, 70, the singer, was in good condition in hospital after suffering an erupted hernia at a White House dinner given by President and Mrs Clinton. Mr Bennett, who is enjoying a career revival, has won six Grammys. His best-known hit is *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*.

Killer's fortune goes to victims

Sydney: Martin Bryant, 28, jailed for life for murdering 35 people in Port Arthur, Tasmania, last April, has had all his assets seized by court order (Roger Maynard writes). The proceeds of the £500,000 estate are to be paid to the injured and relatives of the dead.

France faces double threat from guerrilla bombers

BY ADAM SAGE

THE twin terrorist threat facing France was underlined yesterday when police broke up an Islamic fundamentalist "military" cell and Corsican nationalists were blamed for a bomb explosion in Paris.

French police expect attacks by both groups over Christmas. Corsican militants last week declared "war" on Paris, while today is the second anniversay of the hijacking of a French airliner by Muslim extremists, a date detectives believe could signal a fresh wave of violence.

Yesterday investigators said they had found evidence that ten people arrested last week belonged to a "network of Islamic gunmen trained abroad", notably in Afghanistan. Although there is no evidence to suggest any of the ten were involved in the Paris Metro bombing which killed four people this month, detectives said they have links to known terrorists. Seized documents detail the extensive military training received by the young Muslim militants.

The ten were charged with involvement in terrorism by the Paris-based investigating judge, Jean-Louis Bruguiére. Their arrest represents a significant success for police in the fight to prevent a wave of terror attacks in France for the second year running. A campaign by three Islamic cells left eight dead and scores injured in 1995.

Detectives believe the fundamentalists could be planning to plant another bomb today to mark the anniversary of the Marseilles Air France hijacking, which ended when police stormed the plane.

However, they are also concerned at the increasingly violent tactics of the Corsican group, the FLNC Canal Historique, which is seeking the island's independence. The movement attacked mainland France for the first time this year.

Legal authorities said it was probably responsible for the explosion that damaged the National Institute of Statistics in Paris yesterday. If so, it would mark an escalation in the Corsican troubles, as the movement has so far avoided bombing Paris.

The upsurge in violence follows the French Government's decision earlier this year to break off talks with the nationalists after President Chirac called for a crackdown on Corsican terrorism.

Last week the movement's leader, François Santoni, and his partner, Marie-Hélène, were arrested, prompting the group to issue a statement saying: "The police can consider themselves at war."

Soros: this year he gave $350 million to charity

Soros tops roster of charitable elite

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

GEORGE SOROS, the financier and "failed philosopher" who forced the devaluation of the pound in 1992, was named yesterday as America's most generous philanthropist.

Mr Soros, who manages billions of dollars of offshore funds, topped a list of 25 leading charitable givers prepared by *Fortune* magazine, giving away about $350 million (£215 million) this year. The causes included Internet access in Russia, the defence of immigrants' rights in America, and getting two US states to back the use of marijuana as a medicine.

Fortune said all but four of the top 25 philanthropists were self-made men. Most attributed their generosity to their religious background.

Second on the list was L. S. Skaggs, 73, the retired chairman of the American Stores retail chain, who donated $155 million. Next was Bill Gates, 41, the chairman of Microsoft, the computer software giant, and America's richest man, who gave $135 million.

Earlier this year Ted Turner, founder of Cable News Network, accused many Americans of being selfish, saying they should be more interested in topping a list of philanthropists than of billionaires. He was 16th on *Fortune's* list, giving away $28 million.

Jesse Jackson leads attack on teaching blacks 'slang talk'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE Rev Jesse Jackson has attacked a Californian decision to recognise "black English" as a separate language to be taught in schools. In a televised debate at the weekend, he called the move "an unacceptable surrender bordering on disgrace".

Last week's vote by the Oakland Unified School District to make Black English — or Ebonics — the official first language of most of its black children has triggered heated national argument. If anything, black leaders are more angered than white by what they see as an attempt to link sloppy speech and poor classroom results to roots in West Africa and slavery.

"I understand the attempt to reach out to these children," Mr Jackson said on NBC at the weekend, referring to some 20,000 black youngsters in Oakland held back by low school grades. But allowing them to read and write in their street vernacular amounted to "teaching down to our children, and it must never happen".

Later he issued a statement welcoming genuine moves to increase blacks' access to education and jobs but adding, in even stronger language: "In Oakland some madness has taken over, making slang talk a second language. You don't have to go to school to learn to talk garbage."

Maya Angelou, the renowned black poet and novelist, who is a close friend of the Clinton family, has also weighed into the debate. "I'm incensed," she told a Kansas newspaper. "The very idea that African-American language is a language separate and apart is very threatening, because it can encourage young men and women not to learn standard English."

Dismayed by persistent under-achievement by black children, who make up 57 per cent of Oakland's schools, officials there adopted a notion popular in some academic circles that the patois of America's black inner-city areas has more in common with West African tribal languages than with standard English. They voted unanimously that Ebonics (from "ebony" and "phonics") was a distinct language, and denied charges that the vote was a ploy to qualify for extra federal funds.

Tatiana Johnson, right, reads to her classmates at Parker Elementary School in Oakland, California

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Pressure grows on contrite Gingrich

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

CRITICISM was growing yesterday over the Republican rush to re-elect Newt Gingrich as Speaker despite his contrite admission that he broke the House of Representatives' ethics rules.

Party leaders may succeed in persuading rank-and-file Congress members that they still owe allegiance to Mr Gingrich for leading their return to power two years ago.

Already one of the most unpopular politicians in the United States, Mr Gingrich, who had promised to transform the political landscape through aggressive promotion of his *Contract With America*, would, if re-elected, become a weakened figure even within the confines of Capitol Hill. His presence would cast a shadow over Republican attempts to go after President Clinton and other Democrats for a shoal of presumed ethics violations involving campaign financing. Already, wrangling over his future is undercutting post-election promises by both parties to try to get along.

The January 7 vote for Mr Gingrich will be the first in the new Congress by House Republicans who, for all their solidarity, worry about the reaction of voters. However, no one has emerged in the party to challenge him.

All the fury is being expressed by Democrats who think he should resign over the ethics committee finding that he brought discredit on the House over his handling of tax-exempt funds for a partisan, televised college course, and and his admission that he misled the committee with "inaccurate, incomplete and unreliable information".

"We don't need people in the Speaker's chair who lied to Congress," said David Bonior, the Democratic Whip leading the campaign to oust him.

Not-so-perfect tense on Dordogne bar-owner's menu

BY ADAM SAGE

A LINGUISTIC nightmare is facing students of French after a campaign to reinstate one of the most complex points of Gallic grammar, the imperfect subjunctive.

Launched earlier this year, the Committee for the Rehabilitation and Use of the Preterite and the Imperfect Subjunctive — Corupsis — has tapped into a groundswell of opinion in favour of a return to mind-bogglingly difficult conjugations.

As a result, decades of increasing simplicity are in danger of being overturned, to the delight of purists but the consternation of anyone hoping to learn French. Alain Boussiière, the founder of Corupsis, says his committee has attracted several hundred members, including journalists, teachers and academics, in little more than six months. He believes his success heralds the comeback of verbs ending in "isse", "asse" and "üt" — all forms that have largely been consigned to history.

An avid reader of French 19th-century literature and the owner of a Dordogne bar, M Boussiière, 50, has been surprised at the committee's meteoric rise since May. He offered an impromptu lesson on the imperfect subjunctive on his bar's terrace this autumn and was taken aback when almost 200 people turned up. "Many people don't want to lose something that is part of our cultural heritage," he said. "We have a very rich language that has been left to us by our ancestors and we must preserve it."

The popularity of his cause owes much to France's preoccupation with stopping the steady stream of English words seeping into the French language. This has given rise to a large number of associations whose aim is to defend *le français* wherever they believe it is under attack.

Most blame Anglo-Saxon imperialism, but not M Boussiière, who sees the main threat as his country's media. Television presenters use "very rudimentary language", he says, while journalism courses ban the preterite in favour of the perfect tense. Reporters are taught to say "*J'ai vu*" (I have seen) rather than "*Je vis*" (I saw). "There are so many nuances that are lost in this way," M Boussiière said.

The preterite is ignored by an overwhelming majority of French people because of the difficulties in conjugating it. But those pale beside the imperfect subjunctive. So complex are the verb endings in that tense that the French Government passed legislation in 1901 allowing people to use the present subjunctive instead, if they were stuck. M Boussiière says this law, coupled with latter-day media laziness, has put one of the French language's finest forms at risk of extinction. "People under 30 don't even know what the imperfect subjunctive is," he said. Indeed, today numerous French speakers have discarded the subjunctive — meant to signal that an action is doubtful, possible or desired, whether present or imperfect: they use the present tense.

For example, many would mistakenly say: "*Il faudrait que vous allez*" ("You should go") — present tense. Under the 1901 law, they could say: "*Il faudrait que vous allier*" — present subjunctive. M Boussiière and his growing army of purists demand that they say: "*Il faudrait que vous allassiez*" — imperfect subjunctive.

Seeds of co-operation wither as Arabs remain suspicious of Netanyahu

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AS THE political impasse between Arabs and Israelis appears to be easing, both sides are counting the economic cost of the breakdown in *the peace process* since the election of the Netanyahu Government.

One by one Arab governments are quietly cancelling or putting on hold the high-profile co-operation projects that were announced in a blaze of publicity after the signing of the Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestinians. Public hostility to the Netanyahu Government throughout the Arab world has tainted almost all projects in which the Israelis are visibly involved. Companies that were proposing to invest in Israel as a new regional centre for their Middle East operations are having second thoughts.

The main casualties have been projects that were still in their infancy. During the Rabin and Peres Governments, grandiose *ideas were proposed at two region*al economic conferences in Casablanca and Amman. They included a Red Sea-Dead Sea canal, the comprehensive development of the Jordan Valley, and the sale of huge quantities of gas from Egypt and the Gulf to Israel. Though not officially cancelled, there has been no movement on any of these projects for six months.

Egypt and Jordan, Israel's two Arab neighbours which had done most to trumpet the "peace dividend" resulting from their unpop*ular treaties with Israel*, are playing down economic co-operation. Jordan recently postponed a planned exhibition in Amman of Israeli economic achievements, which was *to have opened* earlier this month.

Egypt has put on hold a gas pipeline to supply the Israeli market. Qatar and Oman have frozen their tentative steps to diplomatic recognition of Israel, and there is a question mark over the proposal to sell large quantities of Gulf gas to Israel. A long-term proposal for a "peace pipeline" to *bring water from Turkey to Israel's* thirsty fields has run up against the continuing impasse in peace negotiations with Syria.

Economists note, however, that the *picture is mixed. Some of the more* ambitious ideas have been dropped, as much because of their economic impracticality as because they are too controversial. Others are quietly going ahead. These include the Midor oil refinery in Egypt, being jointly built with Israel, and an Israeli-backed textile plant in Jordan.

Jordan has gone farthest and *fastest in trying to win economic* benefits from its peace treaty. Cross-border tourism is thriving, and an Eilat-based hotel group is to finance a new hotel in neighbouring Aqaba. The Japanese are ready to provide the money for new bridges across the River Jordan to link Jordan directly with Israel, instead of going through the Palestinian Authority on the West Bank. Jordan has just negotiated a new deal allowing it to export cement to Israel directly.

Nevertheless, Jordan is having to play down the extent of its *economic co-operation. This is* especially the case with textile subcontracting, where Jordanian factories are picking up Israeli orders that would have gone to the West Bank. With Palestinians barred from entering Israel, Jordanians have also been taking over jobs there. Both issues are sensitive, however, and Jordan is unwilling *to highlight these links*.

Israel, for its part, is now finding a cooler welcome in the Arab world to its overtures for economic co-operation. "We are largely marking time at the moment," said a Foreign Ministry official dealing with the Arab world. "Things are still going ahead, but at a much lower key."

Hopes revive for withdrawal deal on Hebron troops

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI and Palestinian officials last night appeared to be on the verge of clinching an accord which could revive the Middle East peace process. Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, unexpectedly joined the talks over the long-delayed troop redeployment in the West Bank town of Hebron.

A deal was *expected* to be backed by written guarantees from Mr Netanyahu that he would carry out all obligations undertaken by the previous Israeli Government. It is understood that this could mean further troop redeployments in the West Bank, paving the way for these areas to come under Palestinian self-rule.

The Palestinian Authority already controls all the main Arab towns in the territories, with the exception of Hebron, and is demanding larger tracts of land as the basis for forging a future independent state. There was speculation last night that Mr Netanyahu and Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian President, might meet to conclude a deal on a pullback from Hebron.

Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, said last night that Israel was now more *optimistic about a deal. Earli*er, Mr Netanyahu met Palestinians at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

The peace negotiations were given new impetus by the shuttle diplomacy of Dennis Ross, the United States special envoy to the Middle East, who said he expected an agreement on Hebron soon. Speaking to reporters in Cairo, Mr Ross would not predict exactly when an accord would be signed. He said: "There is still work to be done, but there is new energy in the negotiations."

Mr Ross flew back to Israel last night after briefing Egyptian leaders on the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, seeking their approval in advance for any agreement on Hebron. His apparent success is a remarkable achievement after last week becoming the target of Palestinian suspicions of American bias towards Israel. Mr Arafat said on Friday that he did not want Mr Ross as a mediator.

But yesterday, after meeting Mr Ross for the second time in two days, the Palestinian leader thanked the American envoy for his support. The unexpected progress in the talks came one day after Mr Ross predicted he would return home without any deal being completed over Hebron.

Meanwhile, tensions have been rising in the West Bank town and there were fears of a serious outbreak of violence if the impasse in negotiations continued. A curfew was imposed on Hebron on Sunday, after Palestinians threw fire bombs at the homes of Jewish settlers. No one was injured in the attacks, but soldiers sniffed the hands of Palestinian suspects to detect petrol-bomb handlers.

The attacks came after the wounding on Saturday of at least two Palestinians during clashes with Israeli troops in the centre of the town. Soldiers entered the fray after fighting broke out between Jewish settlers and Palestinian children. In recent days American officials made clear to Mr Arafat that the situation in Hebron could not be allowed to continue, and he would be the political loser if there was no breakthrough in the talks.

But in return for his co-operation, Mr Arafat demanded that any deal be linked to further redeployments in the West Bank, and it appeared last night that Israel may have given in to this demand. Mr Arafat has also been exerting pressure to halt Israeli plans to expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian leader last week *received the support of* President Clinton, who said Jewish settlements were an obstacle to peace.

Algiers car bomb kills three

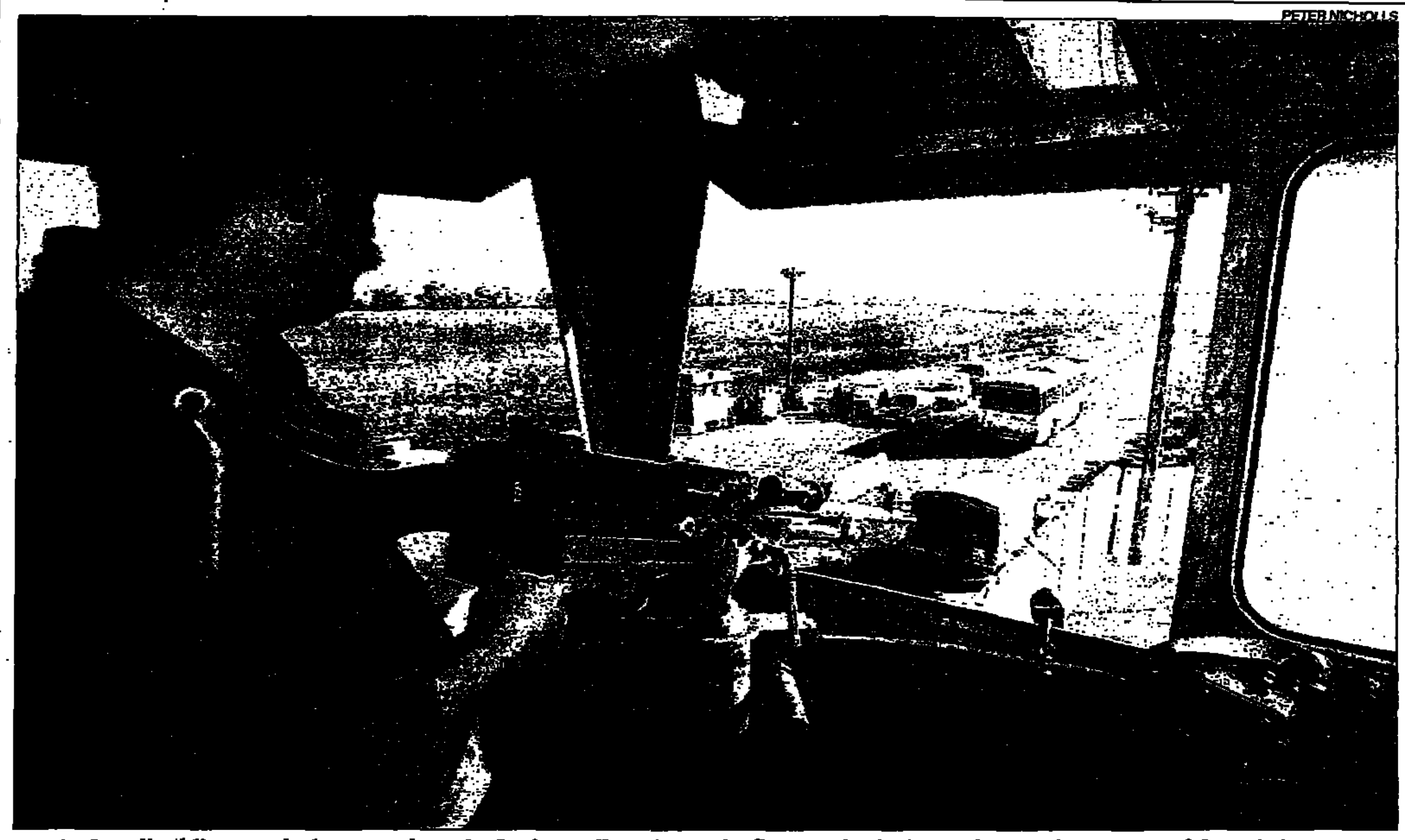
Algiers: At least three people were killed and 70 wounded *when a car bomb exploded* near one of the busiest cafés in central Algiers yesterday.

An elderly woman who witnessed the attack, similar to others carried out by suspected Muslim fundamentalists in the summer, said the car was driven up to the scene by a young man. "He parked it, got out and ran away," she *said. "Afterwards, there was* an enormous explosion."

Police and troops sealed off the area around the Novelty *café in the bustling rue d'Isly* after the blast, which came at about lunchtime as thousands of people were milling around the streets. The explosion blew out windows in the area and damaged vehicles on one of the city's main streets.

Nearby residents, in a state of panic, climbed on to roofs and balconies as other people *ran away. An employee of the* main private daily newspaper, *Liberté*, which has premises nearby, sustained head inju*ries from flying glass.*

On Saturday a homemade bomb killed a schoolgirl and wounded another at Douaouda, about 20 miles west of the capital, according to press reports. *Le Matin* newspaper reported yesterday that armed Islamic groups had killed five people, including two teenagers, on Saturday in the *Casbah district, the old town* of Algiers. *(AFP)*



An Israeli soldier guards the route along the Jordan Valley where minefields and suicide attacks mar the memory of the holy journey

Roadblocks mark the path to Bethlehem

Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent, continues his journey along the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem

INTERSPERSED with Israeli roadblocks, flanked by minefields and overflown by F16 warplanes poised to strike Islamic militant bases in Lebanon, Joseph and Mary's route to Bethlehem is today littered with reminders of the tinderbox tension in *the Middle East.*

Assuming that of the three potential routes argued over by Bible scholars, the couple had chosen to travel through the Jordan Valley, they would today have gone only a few miles before coming across painted rocks by the side of the road in Afula marking the April 1994 sui*cide bombing at a bus stop.*

Seven people died and 52 were wounded in the attack, mounted by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, in revenge for the Hebron massacre of 29 Muslim worshippers by a New York-born Jewish settler. Many victims were high school students just about to board a bus.

The blast was the precursor of other suicide attacks — *usually by young single Pal*estinian men — which reached their peak in February and March this year with more than 60 deaths over a traumatic nine-day period. As a result, Bethlehem and other parts of the West Bank, home to 2.2 million Palestinians, have been blocked off from Israel.

An imposing yellow sign on the new roadblock just south of Bet Shean, the first the biblical couple would encounter, reads: "Individual tourists not admitted. Groups allowed with prior permission of IDF (Israel Defence Force) authorities. Tel 02-305252".

"The block marks the bar*rier between Israel and what* you call 'occupied territory' *that we captured in 1967,*" said a tough-looking reserve major who runs a Galilee heating company. "No Arab-registered car can come beyond this point and we have agricultural police here to stop them exporting fruit and vegetables illegally."

Adding a bizarre touch to the Christmas story, the ma*jor called IDF headquarters* on his mobile phone (essential kit for all Israeli soldiers these days) and asked if we could take photographs. "They are following the route of Yosef and Miriam," he added, using the Hebrew names. "There is no security risk."

Minefields still line the *border between Israel and* Jordan despite the 1994 peace treaty and Israeli military vehicles patrol day and night looking for the footprints of terrorist infiltrators in the freshly raked sand.

Soldiers on both sides claim that after the initial treaty euphoria, relations have again become strained *because of the expansionist* settlement policy of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

The most striking symbols of the now fragile 1993 accord between Israel and the Palestinians are the joint patrols between Israeli troops and Palestinian policemen operating on the outskirts of *Jericho. Once leased by Her*od the Great from Cleopatra, the Palestinian-ruled oasis is claimed as the oldest inhabited city in the world.

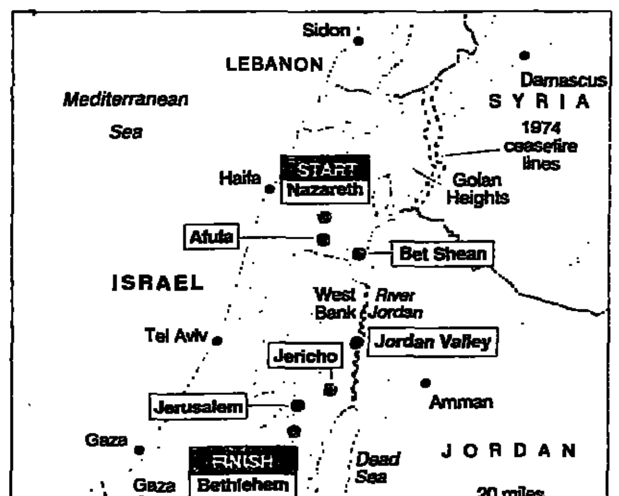
The patrols were resumed only this month after being curtailed in the wake of the September gunfights between Jewish troops and Arab policemen in which 75 people were killed. In the run-up to Christmas, *Maariv*, the Tel Aviv newspaper, quoted IDF officers as being braced for "a new explosion on a level comparable with the events of September."

Climbing once again above sea level, the road passes the sprawling Jewish settlement *town of Maaleh Adumim,* dominating hilltops barren until a few years ago. Israeli officials say that whatever final peace deal is reached with the Palestinians, the town of more than 20,000 Jews will never be evacuated.

With Israeli occupied territory flanking both sides of Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary *would today have to negoti*ate their way through two more formidable roadblocks before finding there was no room at the inn. One dominates the winding road leading out of the West Bank in the village of Bethany, the site where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, and the other — complete with a watchtower — *marks the* entrance to Bethlehem.

PETER NICHOLLS

A scene reminiscent of biblical times masks the ever-present threat of violence



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Red Cross is owed £30m by donors

FROM PETER CAPELLA
IN GENEVA

THE International Committee of the Red Cross is on the brink of an unprecedented *financial crisis* because governments have not paid about £30 million of funds they promised for this year.

At the launch of its annual appeal yesterday, the independent *humanitarian* organisation, which relies on official contributions from various countries, said that within a week it would be running the first eight-figure deficit in its 133-year history.

A spokesman for the Red Cross said most of the shortfall was due to a lack of support for less publicised *relief efforts in Afghanistan*, Sri Lanka and the Middle East. About one-third of its field budget for next year, £309 million, is expected to be taken up by operations in Rwanda, Afghanistan and former Yugoslavia.

Africa still accounts for the largest proportion of its activities, but work in the former Soviet Union, Asia and Latin America is expected to increase sharply in 1997.

Six ICRC workers were murdered in Chechnya last week, and officials are considering significant changes to the way the organisation works. They said ideas include increasing its reliance on local Red Cross workers in war zones and minimising the use of foreign staff, or even extending its traditional emergency mandate to development and preventive work in potential areas of conflict.

200 million hit by Indian power cut

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

NORTHERN India is braced for more candlelit evenings, *cold showers, railway disrup*tion, road chaos and dead telephones.

Unusually cold weather is placing impossible demands on a decrepit electricity generation and distribution system that has collapsed five times in a month and threatens to do so again at any time.

The last shutdown, on Friday, was the worst on record, leaving 200 million people without power from about 6.30am for most of the day. Even the VVIP (very, very *important persons)* area of Delhi suffered, for once focusing the minds of the nation's rulers on the problem.

Christmas is increasingly observed as a holiday across India, particularly in the north, and is a time of travel as families seek to reunite. Trains are packed, but on Friday many came to a long halt, leaving tens of thousands of people stranded.

Telephones died in many areas of Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. For the past three days several branches of officialdom have blamed each other for what went wrong.

It comes down, however, to a lack of competence and political will. That has been proved by Calcutta, once *India's power-cut capital. In a* brief time an energetic Power Minister ensured West Bengal had all the power it needed. Now it sells electricity *to neighbouring areas.*

Power problems are likely to continue in northern India well into the next century. Most power stations operate well below capacity because of poor management and bad maintenance. The Government is relaxing its power-generation monopoly, but private operators are unlikely to bring significant relief.

Patten and Chinese successor agree to talks 'as need arises'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, and Tung Chee-hwa, the colony's future leader, yesterday had a 70-minute formal meeting, their first since Mr Teng's election last Saturday to the Provisional Legislative Council set up by Peking to replace the existing elected Legislative Council next July 1.

They agreed to have further talks in the period leading up *to the colony's return to China* on June 30. The two shook hands and smiled for photographers after their meeting, but Mr Patten looked more reserved than Mr Tung, and was possibly still smarting from China's perceived snub in establishing the provisional legislature in Shenzen.

The Governor and Mr Tung, generally known as "C.H.", made brief statements that most observers found mildly encouraging as a sign of future co-operation on the transition to Chinese rule.

"We all know, perhaps I better than anyone, what a challenging job 'C.H.' has running one of the greatest cities in the world," Mr Patten said, as if Mr Tung had already taken over the job. "I know that the whole community wishes him well, and certainly we want to provide as much support as we reasonably can. It was a good and useful meeting and I think we both now deserve a *Christmas break, particularly* 'C.H.' because he has had to work rather harder than I have."

Mr Patten described the meeting with his future successor as "good, constructive and pretty lengthy", adding: "I have certainly found it extremely useful. We're intending to have further meetings from time to time as the need arises over the coming weeks and months."

Mr Patten said that Mr Tung would meet other senior Hong Kong officials, such as Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, "as he needs and sees fit". For his part, Mr Tung said he was sure it was the wish of all the 6.3 million inhabitants of Hong Kong that the transition to Chinese sovereignty should be a smooth one.

"Therefore the co-operation between the Hong Kong Government and the future Special Administrative Region government is a very impor*tant aspect of it,*" *he added.*

On the subject of the chief difference between himself and Mr Patten, Mr Tung said he had tried to explain the need for Peking's provisional legislature and the necessity for the present Government to co-operate with it.

"The Governor's position is well known to you," he said, adding that it was important for he and Mr Patten to meet regularly, "so we shall do so in the future".

Leading article, page 15

A home at last for Costel

GILL ALLEN

Costel, with his parents, Roger and Tara Hughes. "This is the first proper Christmas Costel has known," says Tara, "so we have tried to make it special for him. We have bought him clothes and toys and a multimedia learning kit to help his education"

Tara Hughes encountered baby Costel in a Romanian orphanage in March 1994. Now after a long struggle she has adopted him and he is in his new home for Christmas. Interview by **Jason Cowley**

The child who greets you at the door is small, frail but full of laughter. His parents, Roger and Tara Hughes, watch as he builds a tower of plastic bricks, then knocks it over with his hands, the bricks tumbling at his feet. Costel Hughes is three-and-a-half, but he seems much younger. There is something impossibly vulnerable about him. "He has only been walking for six weeks," Tara says.

The family are preparing for their first Christmas together — 12 months ago Costel was living in a Romanian orphanage. Tara had filed for adoption but, mired in the bureaucracy and labyrinthine politics of post-Ceausescu Romania, she did not know when, or if, she would ever be able to bring Costel home with her.

"I remember 12 months ago crying my eyes out during Christmas dinner — the thought of Costel being stuck in an orphanage, while we celebrated Christmas, was too painful. But this year is different — it is the first proper Christmas he has known, so we have tried to make it special for him. We have bought him clothes and toys, but also a multimedia learning kit to help his education, and a blackboard, which he will have to stand up to use. This should help strengthen his legs."

Tara, 29, began visiting Romania in February 1992, two years after the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu. Like many thousands of ordinary people, she responded to the suffering of that country's abandoned children, with their shaven heads and blank stares. For a time, in the early 1990s, it seemed that nearly every school charity event or church fête was in aid of the Romanian orphans.

A busy, self-employed hairdresser (she received spirited support from her colleagues at her salon in Blackheath), she spent her holidays helping at an orphanage in Dărmănești, a small, remote village in the north of the country.

"Working through the Biggin Hill Romanian Relief group and later Bless the Children, I raised sponsorship money to help to fund my trips," she says. "When I first arrived in Romania, I couldn't believe how bad things were. The orphanage itself was absolutely horrendous.

"There was no sanitation, no fresh water and the hygiene was appalling. There were rows and rows of young children in cots, squashed together like little sardines. Many of them were lying in their own faeces. There were times when I couldn't believe what I was seeing, or wanted to."

Her eyes water a little as she remembers. "I cannot forget the smell of the place, it was so overpowering. It hit you as soon as you walked in. All the children were suffering from malnutrition; the only food they had was a kind of grimy gruel. They were also distressed, rocking to and fro, banging themselves against the bars of their cots."

There was also the threat of Aids. "Quite a few of the children I saw had Aids and others were HIV-positive. I saw at least four babies die from Aids."

The problem was made worse by the practice of taking blood from big, healthy babies to give to the weaker ones. "Of course, the same needles tended to be used on each occasion, spreading the virus."

Tara encountered Costel on her third visit to Dărmănești in March 1994. He was lying alone in his cot, weakened by dysentery and malnutrition.

"Because he looked so lost and tiny, I used to give him extra food and a cuddle. He'd pull away from most people but never did with me. He used to follow me with his eyes as I walked around, and crane his head forward as I left the room. I could tell that a bond was developing between us."

Returing home to Kent, Tara found herself unable to forget Costel, or the conditions in which he was living. She spoke to her husband, Roger, 32, about adopting the boy. Although they were recently married *and* able to have their own children, he agreed, visiting Dărmănești with his wife for the first time in August 1995. Roger says: "I wanted to do everything I could to help Tara. I saw how the problems in Romania were affecting her. Some people keep asking why we did it. But as soon as they meet Costel they understand. There is no way we could have left him alone."

Researching into Costel's background, Tara discovered that he was abandoned by his mother when just eight weeks old. She lived in a neighbouring village but had no wish to see her son. At 32, she already had more children than she could cope with.

"I went to see her to seek her permission to adopt Costel. She looked like an old woman. Her life had defeated her and any interest she might once have had in Costel had gone. She didn't seem to mind what happened to him. It was as if she had pushed him out of her mind; as if he didn't exist."

Suffering: Costel in the Romanian orphanage

Costel's mother was a casualty of Nicolae Ceausescu's mission to create a population of fertile, capable women, bare foot and pregnant in the totalitarian kitchen.

He launched his repressive pro-natalist campaign in 1984, even though women constituted approximately half of the official labour force, being concentrated chiefly in the agricultural sector.

As a result, contraception was almost impossible to obtain, especially in the impoverished north, and abortion was illegal for any woman who had borne fewer than five children. Backstreet abortions were available but dangerous — medically and politically.

The adoption process was long and tortuous. It was not helped by the inherent suspiciousness of the Romanian people brought about by nearly half a century of state terror. The secret police, the Securitate, infiltrated every aspect of Romanian life; it was not uncommon for members of the same family to betray each other to the authorities. The failed attempt by a British couple, Adrian and Bernadette Mooney, to smuggle a Romanian child out of the country in August 1994 had created difficulties.

"The problems with the Mooneys made the Romanian authorities even more suspicious than they usually are," Tara says. "They did not believe our motives were pure. They could not understand why we wanted to take this child out of the country, especially when children were so cheaply regarded.

"They seemed to put so many obstacles in our way. There was so much red tape and paperwork. Costel was even moved to another orphanage in Ornesti [a half-hour car journey from Darmanesti], which, though cleaner, was like a prison in terms of security; it took about three hours to get in the first time because they didn't know who we were."

Tara eventually arrived home with Costel on July 27 this year, more than two years after first finding him. She spent the previous two months living in a rented flat in Ornesti. The uncertainty almost broke her, especially as she had only rudimentary Romanian. Money was an endless difficulty, too: the overall cost of the adoption was £12,000; the couple are still paying off a loan.

"I was staying in a small flat on my own and in the most abject conditions. I didn't know if I was going to be allowed to take Costel home with me or not. Then one afternoon when I went to see him I was told that I could 'take him away'. We lived together in the flat until the adoption papers came through."

Costel's adoption is official under Romanian law, but he is not yet a British citizen. "He must live in this country for 12 months before we can apply for British citizenship. God willing, that should be the final step we have to face."

She describes the feeling of being reunited with Roger and her parents, John and Pat Werner ("my greatest supporters"), at Heathrow as the best moment of her life. "Walking through customs with Costel I felt exhilarated, exhausted, vindicated . . . there has been nothing to compare in my life, not even walking down the aisle on my wedding day."

Under the close attention of his new parents, Costel has bloomed. In five months he has grown an inch, put on half a stone and begun eating solids for the first time. Where before he could neither speak nor walk, he can now do both. He has also shaken off the alopecia which left his hair thin and balding. His mother has just given him his first haircut, a thick wedge with a neat fringe.

To watch Costel as he plays in front of the Christmas tree, clearly enchanted by the colours and light, it is hard to imagine what he must have suffered. "He still has nightmares, but he is getting stronger each day," Tara says.

"We love him so much and pray that he can forget what happened to him and lead a normal, healthy life. My only regret, as we prepare for Christmas, is for the children we left behind."

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The Times survival guide to last-minute Christmas

FOOD and DRINK

(This includes turkey, goose, champagne, cranberry sauce, puddings and Christmas lunch)

LONDON
Turkey: Marks & Spencer (7.30am-5pm); Asda (overnight until 6pm; Sainsbury (7.30am-5pm); Harrods (9am-5pm)
Goose: Asda, Safeway (overnight until 6pm)
Champagne: all major supermarkets
Cranberry sauce: all major supermarkets
Christmas pudding: all major supermarkets
Christmas lunch: Windows of the World, the rooftop restaurant at the London Hilton on Park Lane, *still has spaces* available for Christmas day. Lunch costs £112 for three-course lunch plus coffee; three-course dinner plus coffees costs £82. Details on 0171-493 8000; The Red Fort restaurant in Soho is offering a £50-a-head Indian feast for lunch or dinner on Christmas day. Details on 437 2115.

MANCHESTER
Turkey: Marks & Spencer (open 7am-5pm); Tesco (8am-6pm); Asda (7.30am-6pm); Safeway (7.30am-5pm)
Goose: Safeway (7.30am-6pm)
Champagne: M&S, Tesco, Asda, Safeway (opening times as above)
Canberry sauce: M&S; Tesco; Asda; Safeway
Christmas pudding: M&S; Tesco; Asda; Safeway
Christmas lunch: Ramada £65 still available for small families

CARDIFF
Turkey: M&S, Queen St (7am-5pm), Sainsbury, Colchester Av. Roath (7.30am-6pm), Asda, Pontprennau (8am-5pm), Safeway, Llanishen (7.30am-5pm)
Goose: None
Champagne: M&S, Queen St; Sainsbury, Colchester Av. Roath; Asda, Pontprennau; Safeway, Llanishen (opening times as for turkey)
Canberry sauce: M&S, Queen St; Asda, Pontprennau; Safeway, Llanishen
Christmas pudding: M&S, Queen St; Asda, Pontprennau; Safeway, Llanishen
Christmas lunch: all fully booked or closed

EXETER
Turkey: M&S (7am-5pm); Tesco (8am-6pm); Sainsbury (7.30am-6pm)
Goose: M&S; Tesco; Sainsbury
Champagne: M&S; Sainbury; Tesco
Canberry sauce: M&S; Tesco; Sainsbury
Christmas pudding: M&S; Tesco; Sainsbury
Christmas lunch: all fully booked or closed

BRISTOL
Turkey: M&S, Broadmead (7am-5pm); Tesco, Boadmead (8am-6pm); Sainsbury, Clifton Down (7.30am-6pm); Asda, Bedminster (7.30am-6.30pm); Safeway, Fishponds (7am-5pm)
Goose: Tesco, Broadmead (8am-6pm); Sainsbury, Clifton Down; Asda, Bedminster; Safeway, Fishponds
Champagne: all major supermarkets
Canberry sauce: Tesco, Broadmead; Sainsbury, Clifton Down; Asda, Bedminster; Safeway, Fishponds
Christmas pudding: Tesco, Broadmead; Sainsbury, Clifton Down; Asda, Bedminster; Safeway, Fishponds
Christmas lunch: all well-known restaurants fully booked

ABERDEEN
Turkey: M&S (8.30-5pm); Presto, Union St (7.30am-6.30pm)
Goose: None
Champagne: M&S; Presto Union St
Cranberry sauce: M&S; Presto Union St
Christmas pudding: M&S; Presto Union St
Christmas lunch: Stakis Treetops, a few place left (01224 313377)

Don't panic: there's still plenty of opportunity to buy and stuff your turkey and have a glass of champagne with the family

TOYS and GAMES

(Buzz Lightyear sold out; Barbie, Trivial Pursuit, Risk, Monopoly and Pictionary)

LONDON
Toys and games: Hamleys, 188 Regent St, W1 (9am-6pm) ; Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (9am-5pm); Toys R Us, Brent Cross Shopping Centre, Tilling Rd, NW2 (7.30am-8pm)

MANCHESTER
Toys: Buzz Lightyear not available; Barbie at Toys R Us
Games: Monopoly, Trvial Pursuit and Risk, all at Kendals. Pictionary not available

CARDIFF
Toys: Barbie limited at Beatties, Castle St (9am-5pm) and Toys R Us (7.30am-8pm)
Games: Monopoly and Trivial Pursuit and Risk available at Toys R Us

EXETER
Toys: Pram and Toy Shop, Sidwell St (10am-5pm)
Games: Pram and Toy Shop, Trivial Pursuit and Risk sold out

BRISTOL
Toys and games: Toys R Us has Monopoly and Barbie, everything else sold out (7.30am-8pm)
ABERDEEN
Toys and games: Woolworths and Toys R Us. Trivial Pursuit and Pictionary sold out

CLOTHES

(Women and men's partywear and shoes)

LONDON
Women's partywear: Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1 (10am-5pm); Laura Ashley, 256-258 *Regent St, W1 (10am-3pm); Jigsaw, 31 Brompton* Rd, SW3 (10.30am-5pm, or longer depending on demand)
Men's partywear: Paul Smith, 41 Floral Street, WC2 (10.30am-5pm); Cecil Gee, 122 Bond Street, W1 *(9.30am-3.30pm longer depending on demand)*; Jigsaw Menswear, 9 Floral Street, WC2 (10am-4pm)
Party shoes: Russell & Bromley; 109 New Bond St (10am-4pm); Emma Hope's Shoes, 33 Amwell St EC1 (10am-2pm); Charles Jourdan, 39 Brompton Road SW3 (10am-4.30pm)

MANCHESTER
Women's and men's partywear and shoes: Kendals (8.30am-5pm)

CARDIFF
Women's partywear: Howells (8.30am-5pm); Next (9am-5pm)
Men's partywear: Dinner jacket hire from Moss Bros (9am-5pm); Dunn & Co (9am-5.30pm)
Party shoes: Howells; Dunn & Co

EXETER
Women's partywear: La Bella Moda, Princesshay
Men's partywear: Peter Gardner; dinner jacket hire from Jonathan Hawkes, Harlequin Centre
Party shoes: Elizabeth Ann, Cathedral Close

BRISTOL
Women's and men's partywear and party shoes: very little available

ABERDEEN
Women's and men's partywear and party shoes: shops in Bon Accord shopping centre (9am-5.30pm); all hiring shops closed unless you have an appointment

TRAVEL

(Holidays and car hire)

LONDON
Holidays:
British Airways has availability on many flights departing on Christmas Day, although these *may be in Club or Upper Class. Destinations in*clude New York, San Francisco, Tokyo, Johannesburg, Barbados and Jamaica. Details on 0345 222111 (24 hrs); Virgin Atlantic still has seats available on Christmas Day flights to Florida and Hong Kong. Details on 01293 747747 (6.45am-10pm today, 9am-2pm Christmas Day);
Car hire: Eurodollar has limited availability from Heathrow. Details on 0181-897 3232 (24 hrs): However, Luton airport is a possible late option if that fails.

MANCHESTER
Holidays: Thomas Cook holidays to Tenerife available and limited Christmas Eve flights. **Car hire:** Budget, Avis and Euro-car

CARDIFF
Holidays: none available
Car hire: all cars already booked

EXETER
Holidays: *A T Mays, South Street, only holiday* available self-catering in Tenerife or Mexico, flights from Manchester
Car hire: Avis and Euro-car, plenty of choice; Budget, low availability

BRISTOL
Holidays: All major travel agents closed
Car hire: Hertz, good choice (8.30am-4pm)

ABERDEEN
Holidays and cars: nothing available

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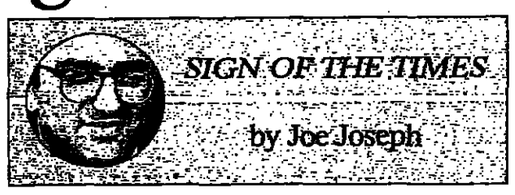
Wise men and the art of buying Christmas gifts



SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Joe Joseph

As another December 25 tiptoes towards us, we once again find ourselves lost in deep, spiritual thought about the many mysteries of Christmas, particularly why women make such a big song and dance about buying presents.

Knowing how much women enjoy browsing in Bond Street we men even let them buy presents *for our side of the family*. And you know what? They still moan.

What's more, we selflessly bequeath this fun activity even though we know in our heart of hearts that women aren't all that brilliant at *buying really interesting*, unusual presents for their relatives and friends. Partly this is because when it comes to the annual ritual of Christmas presents, many women take off from a very long runway: they start thinking about Christmas presents (and begin drawing up shopping lists) in August, which robs *them of the inventiveness* that comes with the adrenalin rush of chasing a deadline.

When I mention this failing to some women, they ask "What on earth are you talking about?" in what is clearly a genuine tone of inquiry and search for guidance. So I explain: a woman thinks of Aunt Marjorie and remembers that she enjoys needlepoint, wears Guerlain scent and buys her jumpers at Marks & Spencer, so this woman, thinking "logically", buys her some embroidery thread, or Guerlain eau de Cologne, or an M&S jumper.

Men leave it to Christmas Eve, in order to ensure that they allow their adrenalin-fired imagination no lazy slack, and then they conclude: "Why pigeonhole Aunt Marjorie? Maybe she aches to try a new hobby if only people would stop buying her embroidery thread; or maybe a squirt of Estee Lauder; or a Prada jumper?" Then we make it our Christmas mission to inject a little *novelty into Aunt* Marjorie's life by buying her a small tub of yacht-deck matt varnish, which happens to be available from the ship chandlery next to the office on the way to St Katharine's Dock.

> 'Inject a little novelty into Aunt Marjorie's life'

Having spawned and then clinically executed this brainwave, many men naturally return home with Aunt Marjorie's trophy expecting at least a small thank-you from the woman of the house. Instead they are met with the blinkered phrase: "What on earth is your Aunt Marjorie — who wouldn't know a yacht from a yashmak — going to do with a tub of varnish? And what happened to the other seven *presents you agreed to buy?*"

It is at such moments that men don't even bother trying to explain the difference between quality and quantity: women wouldn't understand.

This is why many wise men, as the years pass, have learnt to bite their lip and leave all the Christmas present-buying to women, who possess such butterfly-hopping brains that they are quite capable of thinking simultaneously of 11 different presents that they have to buy — and actually buying them — before picking up a few groceries on the way home.

Sometimes, of course, women realise that they have bitten off more than they can chew, at which point they will go to extraordinary lengths to hand back the present-buying responsibility to men — even if it means getting hugely pregnant, which they say makes it tricky to manoeuvre around Harrods (but not if you are thoughtful enough to hire them a wheelchair).

Men — not allowed to shop, but nevertheless being responsible adults — naturally shoulder some of the other duties in order to share the burdens of the Christmas season. They will, for example, telephone the butcher to order the turkey and even leave the butcher their wife's telephone number so he can call her back later and finalise details of what kind, and size, of turkey the family wants this year.

Men will also, selflessly, spend hours in Oddbins and Majestic worrying themselves stupid about which wines to buy, and about how many cases of Pilsner will be required to see the wife and children through the Boxing Day sporting fixtures on telly. Another thing: men will — *without even being asked* — offer judgment on whether or not the trimming of the Christmas tree is an improvement over last year's trendy Mexican red chillies theme.

Men are also sensitive enough to realise that a woman's nerves can jangle at this time of year. They know that sometimes it takes a very small straw to break the camel's back, such as when she asks you if you have bought the present for your nephew Jamie, as agreed.

Considerate as ever, and reluctant to push her over the edge, you naturally don't tell her baldly that you haven't bought it yet because she will only say something she'll regret, such as "But it's Christmas Eve, you wombat, and the shops are all closed now!"

So, keeping your own counsel, you just tiptoe to the Christmas tree ("Ah! Spirals of dried orange peel! Much better than last year's, dear") and pick a present that some friends dropped round at the weekend for your son, but *which he hasn't yet spotted*, then rip off the tag and write "For Jamie" on it. Why? Because new men are ecologically minded and believe in recycling in all corners of our lives. Sensitive or what?

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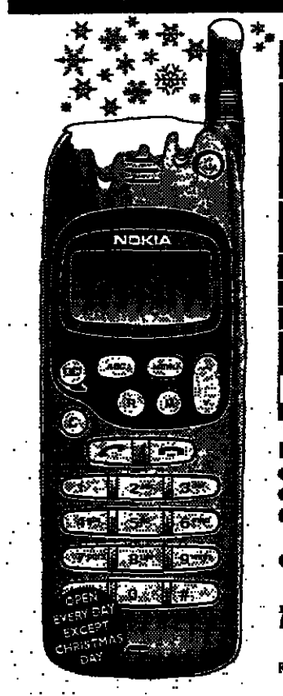

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■ VISUAL ART

Image of the year: Bill Viola's *The Messenger* in Durham Cathedral will long haunt the imagination

■ RADIO

Edwina Currie plays the title-role as politicians ham their way through *Iolanthe*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC

Hallelujah! Handel's *Messiah* still pulls in the crowds on its Christmas appearances

■ BOXING DAY

Anthony Hopkins in *Surviving Picasso*, and all the other new films, reviewed by Geoff Brown

"REMARKABLE... Hopkins brings tremendous power to the role."
– Sheridan Morley, BBC RADIO 2

"A magnificent moving experience... totally mesmerising."
– Charlotte Moore, ELLE

"DAZZLING, DARING, VIGOROUSLY INVENTIVE."
– N.Y. TIMES

ANTHONY HOPKINS

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Message of hope

For Richard Cork, Bill Viola's superb artwork in Durham Cathedral was a highlight of 1996

When medieval art was at its height in Britain, churches and cathedrals were the natural home for the finest painting and sculpture of the period. The smashing and burning perpetrated by Henry VIII and his Protestant successors ensured that pitifully little now remains. We are forced to search for vandalised fragments in the shadows of naves, transepts and choirs. They provide only a bruised and abraded hint of the images that once played such an integral part in the architecture they enhanced. And attempts by 20th-century clergy to commission new religious art have ended, all too often, in excruciating banality.

The Messenger, Bill Viola's video installation in Durham Cathedral, stays in my mind as one of the most heartening works I encountered in 1996. Initiated by the cathedral's senior chaplain, Bill Hall, as part of the celebrations of the UK Year of the Visual Arts, it proved against the odds that contemporary art in a hallowed setting can vie with the intensity of its medieval forerunners.

Few of the images which once embellished this sublime building now survive. The great Neville Screen in Caen stone behind the High Altar, given by Lord Neville around 1380, was originally enlivened by 107 richly gilded and painted statues. Only a few of its smallest and most incidental carvings have been spared, and the profusion of empty niches is painful to contemplate. Moreover, at the centre of this same chapel an elaborate embroidered Frontal on the altar exemplifies everything wrong with church embellishment today. Designed by Leonard Childs and funded by the Friends of the Cathedral in 1994, it looks garish and unworthy of this austere setting.

Not so Viola's installation, which focuses unapologetically on the full-length figure of a naked man. Viola's decision to dispense with the statutory loin-cloth prompted the Dean to consult the police. But pornography plays no part in the image of a pale, submerged body projected on to the large screen. Positioned below a fine stained-glass window at the cathedral's riverside end, and framed by an arch, the screen was attached to the Great West Door. The utter simplicity of Viola's image chimed with the monumental severity of its Romanesque surroundings.

When the work commences, it does not strain for grandiose effect. The figure is scarcely discernible at first. He seems little more than a small, wavering blur illuminated by a diagonal shaft of ice-blue light streaming in from the right. Gradually, we realise that the blue-black emptiness around him is water.

Slowly, almost imperceptibly, this inert and anonymous man becomes more identifiable as he rises upwards. Bubbles gush from his head like stars spinning out of control in the night sky. He looks more dead than alive, and submits limply to the force of the water. Then, quite suddenly, he breaks through. As his body hits the air and the warmth of a brighter light, the man's gasping relief appears to be mixed with a rush of pleasure. The colour washing over one side of his body is as heady as the brilliant drapery in a Mannerist altarpiece by Pontormo, a painter whom Viola particularly admires. Memories are stirred of the dead Christ in a thousand Deposition scenes.

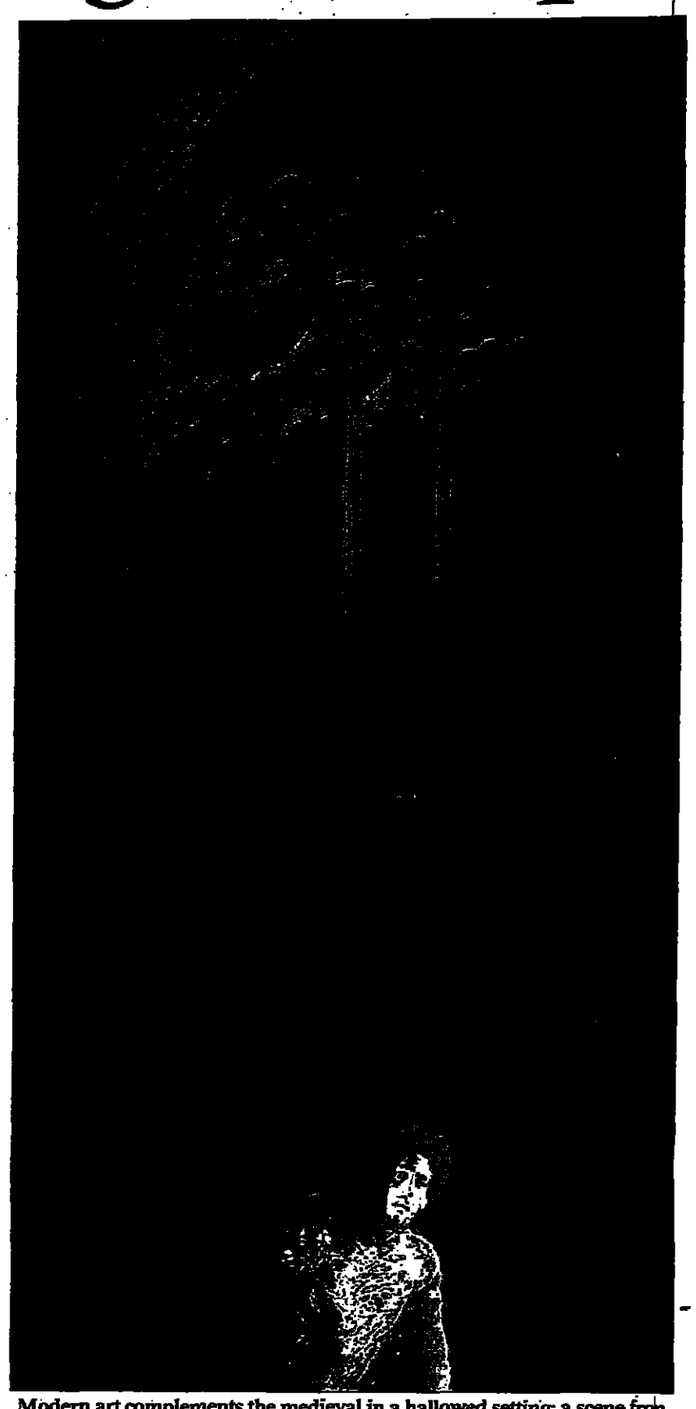
Although video is Viola's medium, he remains profoundly indebted to the European tradition of figure painting. But he does not seek to impose a religious meaning on *The Messenger*. The floating form is impossible to identify with confidence as Christ, even when we watch his bearded face release a long-held breath. The sound of pent-up air rushing from his mouth echoes through the cathedral. And for a moment, *The Messenger* seems to be unequivocally concerned with the promise of rebirth.

But rather than moving towards a Lazarus-like emergence from the void, the figure finally inhales as deeply as possible, closes his eyes and sinks back into the darkness. The smaller he becomes, the more he sheds his human identity, breaking up into slivers of glacial light.

The cycle begins again, and is repeated without losing any of its trance-like power. When *The Messenger* eventually ends, we find ourselves watching the screen grow completely dark. The diminutive form, now impossible to recognise, is snuffed out. So instead of encouraging us to have faith in a Resurrection, Viola's mesmeric work emphasises the inevitability of physical obliteration.

In this respect, the Durham installation confirms the involvement with mortality in many of Viola's earlier video pieces. But *The Messenger* does not seem at all morbid. Its prevailing quality lies in an extraordinary sense of graceful lyricism. Perhaps the figure is spiritually buoyed up by the knowledge that a cyclical rhythm controls his fate, enabling him to ebb and flow like a tide. Above all, he enables us to take heart from the climactic moment when his mouth sends out an affirmation of life, demonstrating beyond all doubt that contemporary art can still play a potent and illuminating role in the most awesome of ecclesiastical interiors.

● The Messenger *has now been acquired by the Guggenheim Museum in New York and goes on show there from Jan 18 to March 23*



Modern art complements the medieval in a hallowed setting: a scene from *The Messenger*, Bill Viola's video installation in Durham Cathedral

The old made new

MUSIC

The Sixteen/ Christophers
St John's Smith Square

IN ORDER to accommodate a full house at the first performance of Handel's *Messiah*, ladies were requested "not to come with hoops" and gentlemen "to come without their swords". Even briefcases and overcoats seemed to strain the capacity of St John's last Friday when, in the manner of a wintry Prom, queues stretched around Smith Square, sipping flasks of mulled wine and coffee, and waiting long for this *Messiah* from The Sixteen, The Symphony of Harmony and Invention (as their orchestra is now called), and their director, Harry Christophers.

There were all sorts and conditions: young and old, lively and infirm; many for whom this must have been well-nigh their 100th *Messiah* and some few for whom it was the first. How, then, to make the old new once again without recourse to mere novelty? And how to avoid the clichés of both post-imperial and Post-Modern, period-instrument Handel without mannerism and the arch? These were the challenges met by Christophers in a performance of dramatic intensity.

The orchestra played with the sensuous austerity for which it is famed: chords and rhythmic figures incisive, yet melded into a single humming line in, for instance, its accompaniment to the tenor aria *Comfort ye*. The Sixteen themselves — all 18 of them on this occasion — had thought through every choral line. The natural inflection of the biblical words as set by Handel would frequently be newly-lit by, for instance, the momentary expansion, rather than mere emphasis, of the first syllable of "Wonderful" in *For unto us a Child is born*. And the snarling inner parts of the taunting chorus, *He trusted in God* intensified the drama within-a-drama which is *Messiah's* darkest hour.

The tenor Mark Padmore brought real urgency to his recitatives. Michael George created seismic movement high up on the Richter scale in his shaking of the heaven and the earth. Michael Chance's counter-tenor leapt high and pure with the refiner's fire and Lynda Russell showed there was no need to turn *Rejoice greatly* into a jig to make it lively.

This was a remarkable performance by any standards, but particularly from a band of musicians who had been touring for seven gruelling nights before Christmas.

HILARY FINCH

CHRISTMAS DAY RADIO PREVIEW

THE radio year has only six days left to come up with anything more entertaining than *Fond and Familiar* (Radio 4, 2pm, tomorrow). Tailor-made for Christmas, yet not a mention of Christmas in it, it is a pot-pourri of verse, epitaphs and ballads. Outrageously funny one moment, poignant the next.

The selection was made by John Moffat. He, Judi Dench, Michael Williams and the impishly pianistic Michael Haslam make up the performing quartet. The interplay between them is kept to a minimum so that we can enjoy the jewels of the collection without distraction. The keynote of producer Enyd Williams's show is struck by the line: "The cares that infest the day shall fold their tents like Arabs and, as silently, steal away."

Gilbert and Sullivan kept MPs out of their fairy opera *Iolanthe*. No such proscription mars Classic FM's extraordinary production of it (Classic FM, 2pm, tomorrow). Edwina Currie (title role), Teresa Gorman, Clare Short, Diane Abbot, Tony Banks, Jerry Hayes all have roles. The House of Lords is stoutly represented by Lord Healey (as Lord Chancellor), Lord Howe of Aberavon (Earl of Mountararat), and Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare (Earl Tolloller). It is either good news or bad that none of them sings. They speak their parts, while the professionals do all the warbling.

When *Iolanthe* opened in 1882, *The Times* sniffily said of it: "Healthy, albeit not supremely intellectual." In 1996, it's as healthy as ever. Intellectualism can go and take a running jump.

PETER DAVALLE

■ POP 1

Jools Holland offers glorious variety and a great guest-list to the Shepherds Bush crowd

■ POP 2

... but Marc Almond finds the going far from easy in an accident-prone Dublin gig

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 1

Ronnie Corbett and Zoë Hall lead the fun in *Mother Goose*

VENUE: Now at the Churchill, Bromley

■ CHOICE 2

... while Hinge and Bracket turn again in *Dick Whittington*

VENUE: Now at the Anvil, Basingstoke

POP AND BLUES: Fun with mighty Marc and groovy Jools, and a nudge-nudge from Dana

Saved by Soft Cell hits

IT was billed as "the definitive festive celebration" with fans encouraged to "wear their Santa hats and pixie outfits". However, neither the gig nor the audience turned out, so to speak, as expected.

A quick scan of the half-full Red Box revealed that it had been a quiet night for the city's costume hire specialists, while the first half of the show had one contemplating whether or not Almond's artistic goose was cooked. This was mainly due to factors outside his control, namely the poor sound quality and erratic lighting.

Marc Almond
Red Box, Dublin

Almond put it down to lack of time for a soundcheck, having arrived in Dublin late. But if the sense of anticlimax was palpable, it became clear as the night wore on that the veteran artist was not content *to let such tribulations spoil* the party.

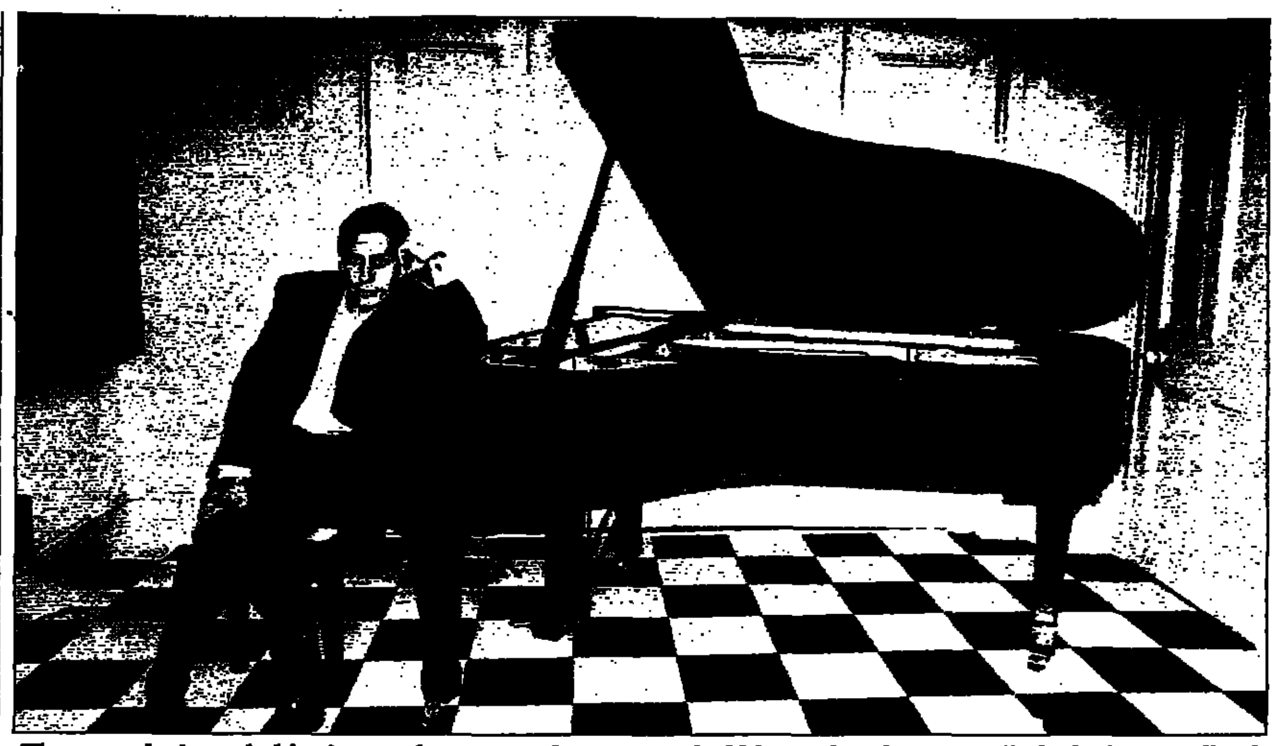
Musically the pendulum swung between keyboard-dominated disco and guitar-based torch songs, reflecting both his electro-soul roots with Soft Cell and his later incarnation as a Euro-sophisticate with a penchant for Jacques Brel standards.

He has even taken up with Sixties teen heart-throb P.J. Proby for his current single, *Yesterday Is Gone*, but in the absence of the string-soaked orchestra that adorns the record and without Proby to duet with him, it did not have quite the impact of, say, *Tears Run Rings* or his stately version of Brel's *Jacky*.

But it was the Soft Cell classics which sorted out the boys from the early Eighties nostalgists, the bleak majesty of *Bedsitter* and the unfettered romanticism of *Torch* reminding us why some people see Almond as a precursor to Jarvis Cocker.

A rousing acoustic version of *Say Hello, Wave Goodbye* was the apt finale to a gig that may not have delivered on its promise but at least showed there is still life in Almond's erotic cabaret yet — with or without those pixie outfits.

NICK KELLY



The man who brought his piano to the party, and everyone asked him to play: the terminally funky Jools Holland

Santa's hip helpers

Recently, the commercial for a well-known American liquor *company was shot in* a crowded New Orleans bar. The patrons let the good times roll to the accompaniment of the Big Easy's favourite night tripper, Dr John. Shepherds Bush is a long way from the Mississippi delta, but Jools Holland served up such a rich musical gumbo the other night that he could have filled the good doctor's post and the party would have been none the poorer.

Jools Holland
Empire, W12

And yet part of the pleasure of Holland's Christmas jamboree came in the fact that he is no longer merely a New Orleans wannabe. Certainly his set is as well-seasoned as ever with the songs of *Professor Longhair* and Fats Domino, but it now reaches with self-assurance into pop, soul and jazz, a broad canvas further embellished by an excellent horn section.

In addition to his regular band, featuring brother Chris Holland on organ and former Squeeze colleague Gilson Lavis on drums, Holland never goes anywhere in concert these days without his Rhythm & Blues orchestra: three saxophones, two trombones and two trumpets that beckon from the stage like a well-stocked mini-bar.

Fifty-plus shows as the urbane compere of BBC2's *Later* have also made Holland the man with the fattest phone book in the business, as this audience found to its immense delight. There were guest vocal spots for Sam Brown, who offered an unexpected but spirited *Times They Are A-Changin'*, and for Eddi Reader, reprising her lead on *Waiting Game* from Holland's underrated current album *Sex & Jazz & Rock & Roll*. The veteran Jamaican trombonist Rico also stepped forward from the R&B Orchestra to take a lead on *Able Mabel*, while Chris Holland contributed a strong first voice to the Squeeze chestnut *Tempted*.

But it was Holland's other special guest who took the celebrations to a fresh level. Paul Weller may not strike one as the life and soul of festive fun, but it really was the Modfather himself making an unscheduled appearance, jamming on Billy Preston's *Will it go Round in Circles* and Fats Domino's *I'm Walkin'*. With such a guest list and a confident, disciplined performance from our host, the archetypal good time was had by all. This was one party where not a soul remained in the kitchen.

PAUL SEXTON

Carry on smutting

Dana Gillespie
Pizza Express Club

JUST as, at this time of year, theatre-goers' minds turn to panto, so Dana Gillespie's lubricious repartee belongs to the tradition of blues singing as light-hearted, near-the-knuckle entertainment. In the age of gangsta rap's Oedipal insults, Gillespie's repertoire — like George Melly's long-running Christmas show at Ronnie Scott's — revives a more subtle vein of lewd behaviour.

Compared with Ruth Brown's burlesques, Gillespie's stage persona is bound to appear more contrived: Soho is always going to be a long way from the *bordellos of the old Storyville district of* New Orleans, home to piano "professors" and streetwalkers alike.

But, as with Melly's blend of Bessie Smith and art gallery banter, the element of play-acting has its own appeal. The contrast between Gillespie's demure speaking voice and the fearsome man-*eaters she portrays in song lends the* evening a surreal veneer of theatricality. When she indulges in the double-entendres of "jelly roll" and the erotic properties of "bacon and cabbage" you can almost imagine her bringing half a Tory Cabinet to its knees.

Big Boy and *King Size Papa* launched the proceedings in suitably tongue-in-cheek fashion. Gillespie supported by a buoyant and unfussy band led by her pianist Stan Greig. Long before record executives concocted Spice Girls, she was following Queen Bessie's example and laying down her own terms in the battle of the bedroom.

Gillespie joined Greig on the piano stool for more mischief-making on the lilting *Organ Grinder Blues*. You seldom hear as many risqué lines as this outside a *Carry On* script. But there was a *weightier side to the performance too, her* voice growing darker and deeper on a slowish reading of *St Louis Blues* which wove its way towards — excuse the Gillespie-ism — a throaty climax.

CLIVE DAVIS

FAMILY EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

CHRISTMAS CHEER: Join conductor Ian Watson and the Mozart Festival Orchestra (dressed in 18th-century costume) for an afternoon of **Carols by Candlelight**. With *Angela Tunstall*, soprano, Crispian Steele-Perkins, trumpet, and the Mozart Festival Chorus. In the evening, **The Glory of Christmas** is celebrated in a festive concert for all the family, with readings from Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. Philip Simms conducts the London Concert Orchestra, with Bonaventura Bottone, tenor, Crispian Steele-Perkins, trumpet, the Thomas Tallis Choir and the Trinity Boys Choir. **Albert Hall**, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Today, 2.30pm and 7pm

MOTHER GOOSE: Ronnie Corbett stars in this enjoyable family pantomime, with Donald Hewlett as the Squire, and the Patton Brothers as Bill and Ben the *Henchmen*. *Zoe Hall plays the Goose* **Churchill**, High Street, Bromley (0181-460 6677). Today, 11am and 3.30pm Closed tomorrow. Then Mon-Sat, 2.30pm (except Dec 31) and 7.30pm; Sun, 11am and 3.30pm. Until Jan 19

THE NUTCRACKER: English National Ballet presents the last season of Ben Stevenson's magical production. Music by Tchaikovsky, national dances from Russia, Arabia, China and Spain, flying pastry cooks and a mighty monster mouse king combine to tell the story of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince as they journey across the Lemonade Sea to the fairy tale Kingdom of Sweets. **Festival Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today, 2.30pm. Then Dec 26, 27, 28, 30-Jan 4, Jan 6-11

ELSEWHERE

BARNSTAPLE: Anita Harris stars as **Aladdin** in a production that promises comedy, drama, dance, music, fantasy and magic. Directed by Mike Margolis. **Queen's**, Boutport Street (01271 24242). Today, 2.30pm, 6pm. Then Mon-Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm, 6pm. No perfs tomorrow, January 6 and 7. Until January 11

BASINGSTOKE. Dr Evadne and Dame Hilda, otherwise known as Hinge and Bracket, star in the Anvil's Christmas show, **Dick Whittington**. With Maggie Moore in the lead role, Buster Merryfield and Jane Freeman. **Anvil**, Churchill Lane (01256 844244). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 2.30pm and 7pm (except Christmas Day); Sun, 4pm.

GUILDFORD. Anita Dobson as the Wicked Queen, and Bill Maynard as Herman the Henchman, star in the classic fairy-tale **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**. With Karon Worth and the Sue Thompson Dance School. Suitable for children of all ages. **Yvonne Arnaud**, Millbrook (01483 440000). Today, 2.30pm, 7pm. Closed tomorrow. Then Mon-Sat, various times. Ring box office for details.

HUDDERSFIELD. Lawrence Batley Theatre presents a musical adaptation of **The Pied Piper**, based on the original poem by Robert Browning. Written and directed by Ronan Paterson. **Lawrence Batley**, Queen's Square (01484 430528). Today, 11am and 2.30pm. Closed tomorrow, Boxing Day. 3pm and 7pm. Then various times: phone box office for details

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Carmina Burana Experience (0171-638 4141) ... **Chalk Farm**: Michael Forbes, Oil Paintings (0171-267 3300) ... **Chris Beetles**: The British Art of Illustration, 1780-1996 (0171-839 7551) ... **Design Museum**: Doing a Dyson; Charlotte Perriand: Modernist Pioneer; Conran Foundation Collection: The Good Buy Girl (0171-378 6055) ... **Festival Hall**: The Scenic Eye: Visual Art and the Theatre (0171-960 4242) ... **Portal**: Portal Painters Christmas Exhibition (0171-493 0706) **Tom Blau**: Open Ended, new work from nine photographers (0171-378 1300)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN**: Touching and convincing adaptation of Mark Twain's masterpiece. Lovely pair of central performances, and good playing up and down the river.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Today, 3.30pm. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

☐ **CASH ON DELIVERY**: Bradley Walsh in his first leading West End role in farcical panic about benefit fraud, written by Michael Cooney and directed by his dad, Ray.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm; mat Wed, 3pm.

☐ **THE CHERRY ORCHARD**: Tremendous RSC cast, headed by Penelope Wilton, Alec McCowen and David Troughton, in a production by Adrian Noble considered the best in living memory.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR**: Restored theatre, revived show, the theatre after 56 years, the show back to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Directed by Gale Edwards.
Lyceum, Wellington Street, WC2 (0171-656 1807, booking fee). Today, 3pm. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ ***LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR***: Neil Simon's funny account of working among a team of scriptwriters for comedian Sid Caesar back in the 1950s. Gene Wilder plays Sid. Directed by Roger Haines.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040). Today, 2.30pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat 4pm.

◪ ***OLD WICKED SONGS***: Bob Hoskins returns to the stage to play a music professor teaching Schumann to an arrogant young pianist (James Callis). Elijah Moshinsky directs.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Today, 2.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Tue, 2.30pm, and Sat, 4pm.

◪ ***SCROOGE***: Anthony Newley back on the West End stage singing the title role in the Leslie Bricusse musical.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-636 2295). Today, 3pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

☐ **THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS**: Rubber-limbed Miltos Yerolemou plays the much-put-upon servant in Ted Craig's production of Goldoni's classic comedy.
Warehouse, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (0181-680 4060). Tues, 6.30pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 5pm.

☐ **A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE**: Jessica Lange makes her West End debut, recalling the kindness of strangers and unnerved by Toby Stephens's Stanley, in Peter Hall's production of the Tennessee Williams classic. With Imogen Stubbs.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Preview today, 3pm. Opens Dec 30, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) ... ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (0171-494 5070) ... ☐ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) ... ☐ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ◪ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ... ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ☐ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ... ☐ **Tommy**: Shaftesbury (0171-379 5399) ... ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

EVITA (PG): Madonna sings with passion, but production overkill plays havoc with Lloyd Webber's rock opera. With Antonio Banderas.
Odeon West End (01426-915 574)

♦ **MATILDA** (PG): Exuberant telling of Roald Dahl's subversive tale about a precocious girl (Mara Wilson) who triumphs over pesky adults. Danny DeVito co-stars and directs.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

♦ **THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO** (U): Pleasant new version of the classic tale, mixing humans (Martin Landau, Genevieve Bujold) and animatronics. Director, Steve Barron.
Watermans (0181-568 1176)

BEAUTIFUL GIRLS (15): A good cast wasted in a tired tale of male fellowship. With Matt Dillon, Timothy Hutton and Uma Thurman. Director, Ted Demme.
Odeon Kensington (01426-914 666) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

♦ **BRASSED OFF** (15): Yorkshire colliery band fights for survival. Sugary comedy with a few drops of vinegar. With Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald.
Empire (0800-888 911) **Odeons: Mezzanine** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

♦ **THE CRAFT** (15): High school misfits delve into witchcraft. Routine fare with bright moments. With Fairuza Balk and Robin Tunney.
Virgin Trocadero (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

♦ **A GOOFY MOVIE** (U): Modest cartoon feature aimed at small fry, the first to star the daffy dog from Disney's shorts. Director, Kevin Lima.
Odeon Kensington (01426 914666)

♦ **JINGLE ALL THE WAY** (PG): Aggressively American Christmas comedy, with Arnold Schwarzenegger as a dad in search of a prized action toy.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

♦ **MICHAEL COLLINS** (15): Action ousts politics in Neil Jordan's epic. With Liam Neeson as the Irish revolutionary.
Virgins: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE (PG): Rousing set-pieces dwarf the stars, even Tom Cruise's special agent, in this enjoyable revival of the television series.
Plaza (0990 888990)

THE NUTTY PROFESSOR (12): Lively if vulgar reworking of the old Jerry Lewis film, with Eddie Murphy as the misfit professor who creates a sleek alter ego.
Plaza (0990 888990)

♦ **STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT** (12): Patrick Stewart's Enterprise crew battles the Borgs. Acceptable adventure, if a little too serious. With Brent Spiner and Alice Krige.
Empire (0990-888 990) **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031)

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Alan Coren

Yesterday, I asked the Editor what he wanted for Christmas. I hoped he would say slippers. He did not. He said he wanted a short history of Christmas. It serves me right for asking.

274 The Emperor Aurelian chooses 25 December as the birthday of the unconquered sun (*natalis solis invicti*). To celebrate the event, his wife buys him a pair of gloves (*tegumenta*). They do not fit (*inutilis*).
336 With the arrival of Christianity in Rome, the Church establishes the birth of Christ on the same date. To celebrate this, the Emperor Constantine asks his wife for a set of ring-spanners. He gets gloves.
541 Christmas celebrated in Jerusalem for the first time. Most theologians agree that the reason for the delay was that it took two centuries for the concept of gloves to spread eastwards.
583 First appearance of holly as a Christmas decoration — adapted from a pagan regeneration rite marking the time of year when things began to look up for greengrocers.
731 Christmas arrives in England, prompting the Venerable Bede to write his first book, *Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum*, translated into the vernacular as *Better Than Gloves*. He dies in Jarrow, but his remains are moved to Durham on Christmas Day 1031 to coincide with the reissue of the paperback. Musical adaptation goes to Number One.
881 Hiding from the Danes in Athelney, King Alfred is forced to spend Christmas with an old couple, who give him gloves. In retaliation, he pours brandy over their cake and ignites it. Staunchly loyal, however, they applaud when he brings it in. Moved, he becomes a good king.
1191 Sensing the marketing possibilities of laying copyright claim to Nazareth, the Third Crusade embarks for the Holy Land to secure the Christmas card franchise. The Turks and Syrians resist fiercely, since they control the fig, date, and mincemeat trade, and fear it will be ruined if housewives spend all their money on rhyming correspondence.
1192 Returning to England, King Richard's troops find their wives being kissed in the hall by strange men. The wives explain that this is a new magical method of freeing hammerbeams from mistletoe infestation.
1193 Richard and his army embark for France. The fighting continues for some years. Returning to England, his men discover that they have several new children. The wives explain that, every Christmas, a man climbs down the chimney.
1588 Armada sunk. British sherry introduced.
1589 293 separate salvage attempts on Spanish wrecks.
1590 Potatoes and cigars introduced to Elizabeth's court at Christmas lunch by Sir Walter Raleigh. They are not a success: the Queen is unable to light her croquette, and the Earl of Essex surreptitiously gives his boiled panatellas to the cat.
1603 Accession of James VI of Scotland as James I of England heralds the advent of the tartan slipper.
1662 Several Plymouth pilgrims return from New World with turkeys, for Christmas with relatives. First hot roast turkey eaten.
1663 Last cold roast turkey eaten.
1664 Last turkey risotto polished off.
1665 Great Plague.
1689 William of Orange accedes, introducing many interesting Dutch fashions. At Christmas, 2,867 people die of advocaat.
1733 John Kay invents flying shuttle, revolutionising textile industry. At Christmas, loved ones excitedly exchange a million dressing gowns. After Christmas, they are exchanged again, this time for credit notes. John Kay put in stocks by shopkeepers and pelted with unsold gloves, tartan slippers and bottles of advocaat.
1785 Edmund Cartwright invents power loom. First mass-produced beige cardigans begin appearing in dustbins.
1914 Christmas Day soccer fixture between England and Germany degenerates into unprecedented scenes of violence. Rival supporters fight it out for four years. Germany subsequently demands replay.
1923 John Logie Baird — having spent Christmas dragging his in-laws off one another, watching his kids screaming over busted train-sets, trying to remove advocaat from all the dressing-gowns he has to take back, and suffering from nine assorted dysfunctions of liver, brain and gut, plus carving thumb stitched up by drunken locum — pledges himself to inventing a better way of passing the festive season. Tragically, he manages only to come up with the worst way of all.

The danger from homicidal maniacs does not begin with their weapons, says **Woodrow Wyatt**

Why violent videos do more harm than guns

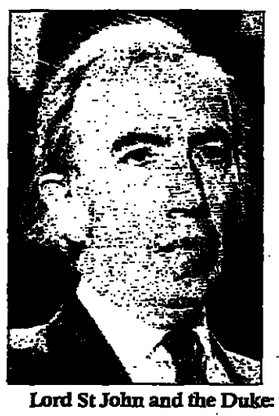
Last Friday morning I was invited on television to discuss the implications of remarks critical of the new gun laws made by the Duke of Edinburgh the night before on BBC Radio 5 Live. Roy Greenslade, the presenter and a former Editor of the *Daily Mirror*, began with the most biased tirade against his victim I have ever heard broadcast by a supposedly impartial chairman. He was not pleased when I pointed out that he is an ardent republican active in an anti-monarchical organisation. He assumed it obvious that the Duke had no defence against the accusation of offending relations and friends of those slaughtered in the Dunblane classroom by the demented Thomas Hamilton; and of acting unconstitutionally by involving the Crown in politics.

But the Duke of Edinburgh, unlike Prince Albert, has not been accorded the official title of Prince Consort and is therefore much freer to express his views without people making any assumption that they are the same as the Queen's. On the phone-in, Lord St John of Fawsley said that the Duke should have made his attack on the new gun laws, pointing out that they would be unworkable, in the House of Lords, of which he is a member, and not in reply to a chance question in a wide-ranging interview. But for the Duke to speak against the Government and the Opposition in the controversial Firearms (Amendment) Bill that is now going through the Lords would be so sensational an intervention in party politics that it would inevitably, in the public mind, impugn the Queen's apolitical status.

Prince Philip is an expert on the care and handling of guns, not merely from his naval service in the war, but from his prolific use of them in peacetime when shooting game. Defending him on the TV programme, I said we were lucky to have the opinion of so great an expert, and I agreed with him that the new gun laws would not save a single life.

As we all do, the Duke grieves for the lost children of Dunblane, but laws enacted in response to emotional impulse are unsound, particularly, in my view, when the political parties cynically vie with each other in milking the emotions for political advantage.

In August 1987 Michael Ryan murdered people wantonly in Hungerford. Unlicensed lethal weapons were found among his possessions. Anyone intent on mass murder can easily obtain illegal weapons, which are flooding in from Russia via Germany, Ireland and elsewhere. (Strangely enough, the new gun laws will not apply in Northern Ireland.) The headmaster Philip Lawrence was murdered with a knife. In the Tokyo underground, hundreds of passengers were subjected to poison gas. In Tasmania, Martin Bryant committed multiple slaughter. We live in times when some deranged people consider violence to be normal.



Lord St John and the Duke: who has the right to speak?

This lunacy is fanned non-stop by the BBC, commercial television and videos. The top ten rental videos have an average of 13 gun-killings and six killings by other means. Crazed Martin Bryant had a vast collection of such videos. These insidious films, imitated by those on the verge of insanity, should be banned by law — not handguns owned by the law-abiding who pass the required firing tests.

On the television programme, to the surprise of Mr Greenslade, callers rang to say "Lord Wyatt is right". Mr Greenslade handsomely conceded that the mood appears to be changing. It is.

The Snowdrop campaigners of Dunblane have gone too far in blackmailing our emotions. The analogy used by the Duke, of killing with a cricket bat, though perfectly possible, was light-hearted. It was regarded by the Snowdrop campaigners as joking about a taboo subject, as though the inanimate weapon were the culprit, not the evil mind behind it. Even if it were possible to ban all weapons it would not be desirable.

Last August the *New York Post* carried a remarkable article by Dr Irwin Stelzer in which he quoted from official statistics. Serious crimes in New York — murder, burglary, robbery, sex crimes and auto-thefts — were down by almost 12 per cent in the first six months of this year compared with the first half of 1995. This though the city is thick with illegal weapons.

Looking further afield, widespread academic research has shown that almost half the burglaries in Britain, where there are already strict gun-control laws, are so-called "hot burglaries". The criminal strikes when residents are at home. In America, however, the burglars worry lest the householder has a gun. Some 56 per cent of the felony prisoners in ten state jails said they would not attack a potential victim known to be armed or who might be armed. Consequently, the "hot burglary" rate in America is only 13 per cent.

If rapists and bag-snatchers thought that women might be carrying handguns, they would be afraid to attack. In the United States, it is estimated that if those states which have adopted provisions allowing people to carry concealed guns had adopted them earlier, approximately 1,570 murders, 4,177 rapes and more than 60,000 aggravated assaults would have been avoided annually.

Contrary to the prevailing illusion that fewer guns mean less crime, it appears that the more law-abiding men and women there are who know how to handle guns and are allowed to carry them, the less crime there is. As so often, we appear to be going in the direction opposite to that which we intend.

Meanwhile, congratulations to the Duke of Edinburgh for bluntly stating the obvious — a practice which in this country is generally regarded as eccentric.

Rewards of a thankless task

People who work at Christmas are truly entering into the holiday spirit

Libby Purves

You probably expect me, as a notorious mother and public waffler about child rearing, to devote this Christmas Eve space to something hearth-bound and familial. Cue stockings and Santa, stuffing-balls and in-laws, frosty walks and country churches, cribs and carols and sugary domestic contentment.

A fair enough presumption: useless to deny that I have trodden that path, kept the peace and worn the paper hat for enough years to win my Grade 7 Festive Motherhood Medal and Order of the Mince Pie (2nd class). However, I have to tell you that every year at this time a curious wistful sense comes to me of something missing. And although I am exactly where I ought to be for the moment, yet still a small treacherous part of me wonders whether it will ever again know the queer, lonely but strangely satisfying feeling of working on Christmas Day.

Hundreds do. Nurses and doctors and sailors at sea, firefighters and police, broadcasters, weather forecasters, soldiers, security guards, low-paid assistants in old people's homes and high-paid Anthea Turner on *HMS Belfast*; hotel staff, power stations and Directory Inquiries, AA and RAC, coastguards and emergency gas fitters. We may think of Britain tomorrow as slumped companionably watching the Queen (or Rory Bremner) with bits of Party Popper in its hair, but that is not the whole story. There will also be men and women in half-deserted offices and cold Portakabins, walking through hushed wards, milking cows, checking instruments, pushing the button to start the videotape of Christmas TV specials recorded in October, and sitting in the strangely sad landscape of deserted newspaper offices dropping mince-pie crumbs in the keyboard as they morosely tap in stories of Christmas babies and foreign disasters.

Those who work on Christmas Day are a small, strange, proud tribe. By convention everybody says to them: "Oh hard luck, poor you, but think of the overtime, and you'll get next year off." The workers rarely contradict them. It would not be seemly. They may meekly point out that Christmas priority goes to those with small children, but prefer not to admit to uninitiates that working on Christmas Day, in most of the jobs that require it, has inimitable satisfactions of its own. Even less would they admit that these satisfactions connect in an inarticulate way with the concept of goodwill to all men, and that it can feel more Christmassy, not less, to be at work.

I blame Scrooge. Hunched in his counting-house, begrudging Bob Cratchit a few hours off, the old curmudgeon gave Christmas Day working a bad name. Deep in Dickens's fable is the suggestion that sitting down to a family dinner is not only pleasant but morally superior. No doubt there were plenty of night-soil collectors and lamplighters grafting away in the background when Scrooge ran out shouting his conversion to the concept of a Merry Christmas, but they are out of sight. Christmas equals goodwill, goodwill equals a family table, and anybody admitting they like being at work on the 25th of December is tainted with bah-humbugism.

I loved it. In young adulthood, at least, work was where I best belonged: in future years, in that lull before the onset of grandchildren, it may well draw me back. As Giles Coren percipiently (and rather bravely) pointed out last week in these pages, there is a curious and unsettling phase when family Christmases consist of parents in their fifties with children in their twenties, all staring at a turkey and wishing to God that there was someone around who wanted Lego or a fairy outfit. I was lucky: at that period I worked in local radio and could volunteer to go in before Christmas dawn, send pulse-tone to the transmitter, plug up the studio, pull open a fader or the 0600 time signal, play in a tape carillon and all alone wish Oxfordshire a happy Christmas.

I went on from there into phone-ins, real conversations with real strangers who were for one reason or another sufficiently alone on Christmas morning to find solace in joshing with a local radio presenter. Sometimes it involved nipping down to the Radcliffe Infirmary children's ward to confront pale children with Johnnie Chuckles the clown. Sometimes the shift stretched on into the melancholy Christmas evening, so that the station could say goodnight properly and show that it still cared. A duty newsperson would be in for a while, but for much of the day I would be alone with Christmas, with calls in from listeners (often themselves at work) and calls out to the emergency services and the weather centre. Down the tinny lines we all giggled with the camaraderie of working on Christmas Day. Sometimes if my shift ended early I went down to the Cyrenean shelter and washed dishes for assorted tramps and lost, drunk Irish lads who had fallen through the bottom of the building trade. I loved it all. Goodwill to all men? Oh, it's out there all right.

Grace Darling and her father: service in the bleak midwinter

This all came back when I read that for the last time this year, there is a rock off our coastline with not only a lighthouse on it but two resident lighthouse-keepers. At the weekend in Scotland, Mearns Forge and Kenny Weir were gently regretting that Hyskeir, their lighthouse off the West Highland coast, will be uninhabited by March. This is the last time we may drink at cosy Christmas tables to men on lonely rocks who keep lights burning for seafarers.

Their strange, lonely, vital profession has run its historical course; the last English lighthouses were automated a couple of years ago, and now the last of the northern lights follows. It has been a good trade; as Mr Forge put it, "a life of orderly self-reliance", watching the sea and tending the light. At times — as when Keeper William Darling and his daughter Grace rowed out from the Farne to the stricken ship *Forfarshire* — it included the even higher duty of rescue.

The isolation and dutifulness of these men goes strangely well with Christmas. Yachtsmen used to sail out on Boxing Day to deliver parcels to the Needles Lighthouse; old-fashioned households felt no Christmas complete without a recitation of W.W. Gibson's poem about the disappearance of the Flannan Islands keepers:

> Though three men dwell on Flannan Isle
> To keep the lamp alight
> As we steer'd under the lee, we caught
> No glimmer through the night.

It was all true; the Flannan keepers were indeed lost, in 1900. On Boxing Day of that year the master of the investigating ship, the *Hesperus*, telegraphed: "The clocks were stopped and other signs indicated that the accident must have happened about a week ago. Poor fellows, they must have been blown over the cliffs or drowned trying to secure a crane or something like that."

He continued, practically: "I have left Moore, Macdonald, buoymaster and two seamen on the island to keep the light burning." So that was their Christmas too: on duty alone in the cold and the wind and spray, unnerved by the mystery they had found, keeping a public service going.

I suppose that if you were forced to work in a hawkish international bank on Christmas Day, or were an underpaid maid waiting on an unpleasant household, you might rightly resent it. Even for essential and honourable service professionals, missing the sight of your own children opening their stockings must be cause for a certain gloom. But otherwise Christmas working can be wonderful. If goodwill to all men is the point, then to be the boy with your finger in the dike, the lone watchkeeper, the guard at society's gate protecting the innocent revellers from harm, or — even better — the volunteer slaving over tea-urns at a Crisis lunch for the homeless — is not a burden but an honour.

To some, anyway: and I suspect they are often the ones who volunteer and so end up doing it. To come back to the lighthousemen again, the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses laid down in the early part of the century their requirements for employees on rock stations:

> Not every man is suitable to be a lightkeeper. The good lightkeeper has or acquires the temperament so necessary for this job, which has much loneliness and isolation in its composition . . . a lightkeeper will not make a fortune, but the odds are he will be at peace with himself and with the world.

Yes, that's it exactly. To anybody working tomorrow, happy Christmas and thank you.

Widow piqued

Widow Twankey will not be appearing on the Test tour of Zimbabwe this Christmas. The traditional pantomime staged by the press for England's cricketers has been cancelled because the players, stung by relentless criticism of their performances, refuse to attend.

Ian Botham: pantomime king

"In the late 1980s, the press pantomimes were very popular and everbody thought it was very funny," said one Test tour regular. "This year, however, the England management declined. They complained that the press coverage had been virulent and personal."

Even the appearance in southern Africa of Ian Botham, no stranger to ridiculous pantomime performances, has not shaken the management's resolve. From a high point in the late 1980s, relations between players and the press have sunk lower and lower.

"Part of the problem is that the players have not been coming out drinking," explained a journalist. "They retire to their hotel, where they have become obsessed with a word game called Balderdash. They play it as if there wasn't any other game."

● *Can Diana, Princess of Wales, be planning to hotfoot it to Australia for her post-Christmas hols? I understand that two VIP tickets for Sydney have been booked through Heathrow under the name of Mendham. The Princess's constant holiday companion is one Victoria Mendham.*

Mug's games

NO SLOUCHES, the bobbies in Stoke Newington. When reports filtered through of a gang that was robbing Orthodox Jews as they left banks in the north London neighbourhood, operation "Hill Street Jews" was put into action.

After seeking sartorial advice from a rabbi, an officer donned the long coat, waistcoat and hat sported by Hasidic Jews and hung about furtively outside a bank. It didn't matter that the decoy had failed to remember the traditional ringlets and beard of the Orthodox Jew, the muggers weren't picky: they rushed up to him, mobbed him and were promptly arrested.

● *Riotous though the event was, Mike Moore wasn't the snapper who let fly at the* Daily Mirror *photographers' party, crunching a chap's nose. I apologise for suggesting that it was his right hook that caused the damage.*

Soft sell

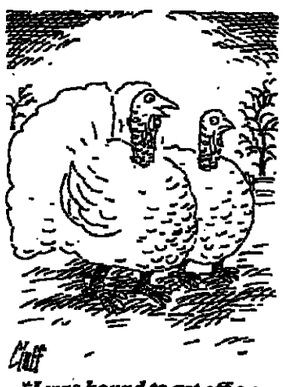
NEWT GINGRICH, the fiery orator and House of Representatives Speaker, seems to have mellowed. Senators and congressmen have been falling over themselves to be nice to each other since opinion polls showed that the American public do not want their politicians to fight and bicker any more. Mr Gingrich's thundery rhetoric has been replaced by words of loving understanding, typified by one much-used phrase, "the fallibility of man".

Some are suggesting that Mr Gingrich's change in tone had more to do with the investigation this week by the Congressional Ethics Committee into allegations concerning his past behaviour as Speaker, to which he admitted two days ago. "I don't fall for it," says a senior Capitol Hill employee. "I've heard that fallibility of man stuff too often recently and it's just not like him."

Malt-easer

EVER the local squire, the Prince of Wales yesterday pitched up at his local pub to weigh in on a discussion about a local planning concern: whether the disused railway yard in Tetbury should be turned into a country park.

Over a tumbler of malt at the Royal Oak, the Prince appeared to support the scheme. The landlady's verdict: "A very nice young man who seemed to like his whisky."



"I was bound to get off on appeal once Michael Howard bought me."

China crisis

A COLOURFUL, beautifully designed calendar plate was intended to be one of the seasonal highlights produced by Spode.

A batch of 1,200 was produced and passed the rigorous checks that fine bone china undergoes. The glaze was perfect, the pattern positioned correctly and the colours superb. It was left to a packer at the pottery's Stoke factory to spot the flaw: the plate showed that 1997 was going to have only 364 days. December 31 did not exist.

Deliveries were cancelled but the picturesque plates were not destroyed. They were given to the Spode staff as an extra Christmas bonus.

● *Expect double portions of brandy butter at the Ayrshire home of Kirsty Hume, an up-and-coming supermodel. Her boyfriend Donovan Leitch, son of the 1960s crooner Donovan, is reportedly planning to propose to her under the mistletoe after a brief courtship (the couple met at a nightclub in May). Donovan has already bought the ring, and I suggest that he contrives to pop it, wrapped in foil, into her portion of Christmas pud.*

Model Kirsty: proposal?

P·H·S

GOD WITH US

'. . . when Quirinius was governor of Syria . . .' (St Luke ii, 2)

Three years from the millennium the name of Publius Sulpicius Quirinius is hardly a name with which to conjure. Yet in his day this minor Roman official in a distant part of the Roman Empire would have had distinction. He was a senior member of the greatest occupying force the world had then seen. He was charged with restructuring Judaea as a Roman province. He was a fully attested historical figure.

Two thousand years later his name is deeply embedded in history, not because of anything he did but because of the obscure birth of an obscure child in an outhouse at Bethlehem. St Luke, who tells the story of that birth in his Gospel, tells it not as a fairy-story, "once upon a time", but as part of the true history of his time. And Luke sets the birth of Jesus not just in Jewish history, but in Roman — in the history of the secular world, of emperors, governors and a taxation census. Caught up into this history are a man and his betrothed, Joseph and Mary, journeying from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where her child is born and is laid in the sharp and piercing straw of a feeding trough for animals.

The birth of that child, which we celebrate this Christmas, was a birth in a promised land, in a town which was the birthplace of David, the most renowned of Israel's kings. That land embodied the identity of the people of God as a sign of their freedom and a sign of the providential care of God for them. But at the time of the birth of Jesus that promised land was occupied territory. And as in all occupation that meant a land in which suspicion was rife, where loyalties were strained, and where collaboration was a dirty word. The child whose life began in an outhouse became the man who was an outsider, keeping company with prostitutes, lepers and quisling tax-farmers. It did not commend Him to his religious contemporaries. He was destined to die as a criminal outside the walls of the Holy City.

But for a land of divine destiny to be occupied and subject to foreign rule meant not just the problems of collaboration, it also involved the sharp question: where was God? How could faith in God be sustained if He permitted the occupation of the land of Israel? Why was the God who had delivered His people from Egypt, and brought them back from exile in Babylon, once more abandoning His people to tyranny, oppression and foreign domination?

Into such a "death of God" situation this child is born, a child whose life is destined to change the world's history long after Quirinius and the empire he served is no more. The Gospel writers tell the story of that child's birth in the light of that child's death, and His mysterious raising to life. Without Good Friday and Easter there would be no Christmas story to be told, and no church to tell that story. For that story is no less than the story of "God-with-us".

And the way God is with us is not in wordly power but by an emptying of Himself, a self-giving in love and in humility, a coming down to the very heart of our fragile humanity. At Bethelehem God is with us in weakness, coming into all the human chaos and confusion, as a helpless newborn child. He does not stand apart but chooses to know from within our human life from the dependence of childhood to the darkness of death. Such a God is a God whose love does not let us down and does not let us go, a God whose being with us is the promise of unconquerable hope to the sinful, the despairing and the dying. Mary's child is the crucified Lord who knows the agony of a Dumblane or a Rwanda from the inside. He is now and always the God who is with us.

MIDNIGHT CHIMES

Hong Kong's last British Christmas

At midnight tonight in Hong Kong's modest Victorian Cathedral of St John, the last Christmas Eve Mass to be attended by a British Governor will send out its message of hope — to Hong Kong's half-million Christians and to many more who, while they do not share the Christian faith, respect and identify with the ethical values which it proclaims. At this last Christmas under British rule, hope may seem an insubstantial bulwark against the anxieties associated with next year's reversion of Britain's last great colonial outpost to Chinese sovereignty. These anxieties would be less acute if Hong Kong's people had better reason to believe that China intends to honour the pledge, jointly made with Britain in 1984, to leave their way of life essentially untouched for at least 50 years after the handover.

Left to itself, Hong Kong has every reason to hope. Poor in every natural resource but beauty, a good harbour and its place at Asia's crossroads, it embodies with exceptional vividness what riches can be created out of human ingenuity and determination. It has managed to continue as a colony without suffering from the anachronism; to combine executive-led government with individual freedoms that have set an example to much of Asia; and to be a fiercely competitive and resolutely capitalist hub of free trade without ignoring the importance of compassion and of civic pride in its steadily improving quality of life.

Hong Kong's institutions have a robust reliability that is in striking contrast to the unpredictability of China's own unsteady mixture of capitalism, cronyism and one-party rule. They are the essential complement to the ambitions and skills that have enabled average incomes in Hong Kong to overtake those in Britain. To these institutions, Hong Kong has lately — to China's deep disquiet — added the further dimension of vocal and active habits, as swiftly learnt as was its entrepreneurial flair, in democratic debate.

The 1984 treaty, wisely recognising the truth of the Chinese proverb that well water and river water do not mix, built in the guarantees of autonomy which China, particularly since the 1989 Tiananmen massacre, has needlessly eroded. Peking's recent actions suggest that its leaders either do not understand, or do not care, how essential Hong Kong's distinctive system is to its extraordinary success.

Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive elected by a body hand-picked by China to succeed Chris Patten on July 1, looks all too obviously over his shoulder. He has begun badly by advocating strict subversion laws and the dilution of Hong Kong's Bill of Rights and advising the press to be tactfully "patriotic" in future.

Peking's decision to press ahead last Saturday with the appointment of a provisional legislature is still more disquieting. It displaces the Legislative Council freely elected last year by Hong Kong's people by one that will be seen as a puppet government. It is both a political folly and a legal challenge to the 1984 treaty. Peking will compound the damage to confidence if it persists in refusing Britain's demand to submit the disputed body's legal status to the International Court of Justice.

At the recent Apec summit in Manila, the Hong Kong delegation presented President Zhiang Zemin with a paperweight in which were embedded four points, the rule of law, the right to civil liberties, an uncorrupted civil service and a level playing field for business. It is a short list. It asks no more — and no less — than the preservation of the status quo. China's response will be watched not only in Hong Kong: at issue is its willingness to respect the rules of international society, which China's modernisers insist it is ready to join. Hong Kong's past gives Britain much to be proud of: it is up to China to match that record when, at midnight in just under 190 days, the page opens on Hong Kong's future.

IMPERFECT PEACE

Pins can now be heard to drop only in a soundproof laboratory

Silence is the companion of holiness. On this most numinous night of the Christian year, midnight services around the world will carol and descant the ancient mysteries of stillness and peace.

Silence has become a vanishing quality of the modern world. Even yesterday came the news that a Buddhist who climbed a mountain to meditate during the winter solstice had just been "rescued". He had mounted Cader Idris near Dolgellau in order to get away from the noisy world and to commune with nature. But another climber reported his presence; the Snowdon search and rescue team interrupted its Christmas party; an RAF helicopter was scrambled and it triumphantly picked out the reluctant victim with its searchlight. Even Simeon Stylites and history's most celebrated hermits might find it impossible to escape the hubbub of the modern world. However high they raised their pillars or however deep they dug their caves, modern communications would still contrive to disturb their peace.

Once upon a midwinter, few places in Britain were as secluded as the summit of one of Snowdonia's highest peaks. Even the town at its foot was celebrated in the old travellers' verse for its quietness: "If ever you go to Dolgellau/ Don't stay at the Lion Hotel./ For there's nothing to put in your bellau./ And no one to answer the bell." But bells ring everywhere all the time now, even at Dolgellau and at the top of Cader Idris.

Silence is still hailed as a stock attribute of this season. The pop group Mud has a hit with *Lonely This Christmas*. And there was *Home Alone*, on the same sentimental theme. Loneliness may still be a scourge at the season of family reunions. But noise is now its neighbour. Silence has become unattainable. Nowhere is out of reach of chattering e-mail and bleepers. Not even Saint Simeon could escape the television cameras, even if he prudently refused to watch the Christmas schedules. Not just the portable telephone but also the telephone answering machine has eroded the blessing of silence. There is no certainty of peace, even up Cader Idris.

As the holy have always known, silence is a necessary part of humanity. Hell would be not silence and eternal cold but one perpetual cocktail party. True society edges towards solitude and needs to make room for silence. The most excellent speech falls into silence. Silence is audible to all men, at all times, and in all places. The most valuable time this week will be the quietest. Seekers after silence should signal their intentions with care, and avoid Snowdon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Right to speak out in gun law debate

From Mr Michael Stephen, MP for Shoreham (Conservative)

Sir, The Duke of Edinburgh's views on guns (letters, December 20) are shared by two thirds of the population if recent opinion polls are any guide, and his distinguished service to the nation as the Queen's consort is in all probability recognised and valued by many more than that. He should nevertheless have kept his views to himself. The impartiality of the Sovereign and her immediate family on matters of political controversy is fundamental to a constitutional monarchy.

Even more important is the impartiality of the judiciary, but in the last year or so their views expressed both in and out of court on penal policy and other matters of political sensitivity have hardly been out of the headlines. If Britain's judges continue to descend into the political arena they risk destroying a priceless asset and losing the respect of the people.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL STEPHEN,
House of Commons.
December 23.

From Mr Gerald Isaaman

Sir, The circumstances of Prince Philip's broadcast remarks and subsequent apology amid the dismay and distress over Dunblane and the banning of handguns are disturbing.

His comments apparently surfaced at least 36 hours before the offending interview on BBC Radio 5 Live and were plugged on newscast after newscast — and in the press of course, no doubt as a result of an official BBC release. Then even before the interview programme itself went on air, Radio 5 Live had conducted a poll, which itself produced a controversial result (68 per cent — 2,784 callers — agreed with the Duke's comments) and yet more claims of poll rigging.

Action replay is part of life, and can be welcome when it is not overdone. But what of pre-action replay? A scoop is one thing, but creating a furore before the event has actually happened seems to be a form of media-induced masochism that is unnecessary and unhelpful given the unhappiness caused in this particular case.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD ISAAMAN,
The Garrick Club,
15 Garrick Street, WC2.
December 22.

From Mr P. F. Hicks

Sir, I read the correspondence on the measurement of risk with much interest (letters, December 17). No doubt Parliament will take the risk presented by handgun owners into account when the Firearms (Amendment) Bill reaches the committee stage in the new year (report, December 17; letters, December 16, 17).

Home Office figures issued in August this year show that there were two or three gun homicides by legal handgun owners per year in England and Wales in 1992, 93 and 94 — this translates as a risk of one death per 16,000 handgun owners per year.

Both Ryan and Hamilton owned rifles as well as handguns. Considering their atrocities together with the law-abiding conduct of all firearm certificate holders (handguns and rifles), we see that the risk of gun homicide from FAC holders in general from 1987 to date is about one death per 25,000 per year.

This is little different from the rate of murder committed by males aged 18 to 80 in the population at large.

Isn't there something else we should be banning, such as uninformed debate on emotional subjects?

Yours etc,
P. F. HICKS (Editor,
National Rifle Association Journal),
Haere Mai,
Mile Path, Woking, Surrey.
December 17.

From Mr John Smart

Sir, A future headline reading "Olympic marksmen emigrate" (letters, December 16, 17) would be preferable to "Gun club member runs amok in repeat of Dunblane tragedy".

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SMART,
22 Eatonville Road, SW17.
December 18.

Happy and merry

From Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly

Sir, This Christmas, everywhere and more than ever before, I seem to see the exhortation "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Merriness is something I associate with an evening in the pub or with a circle of old friends. The young men who debagged a mate on the village green outside our bedroom window on his last bachelor night were certainly merry.

He whose birth we commemorate on Christmas Day, if we choose to be led, surely shows us the gateway to happiness.

Would it not be much more appropriate if all the cards and signs read "A Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year"?

Yours truly,
LOUIS LE BAILLY,
Garlands House,
St. Tudy, Bodmin, Cornwall.
December 19.

Do we need a minister for veterans?

From the Secretary General of The Royal British Legion

Sir, Michael Gove's article, "Why we need a minister for veterans" (December 16), was most welcome. It comes at a time when it seems that the Government is determined to erode the well-deserved benefits of ex-service people.

Over the last few years, the Royal British Legion has sought the establishment of an ex-service affairs unit within a government department to act as a single point of contact responsible to Parliament for ensuring consultation with ex-service organisations on all matters of concern to them and for providing speedy access for all ex-servicemen and women, and their dependants, to specialist advice and services.

The Legion believes that a focal point of this kind would not only be helpful to government, but also reassure the ex-service community, which, with dependants, forms almost a third of the population, that its views had been considered.

We believe that our proposal for an ex-service affairs unit is modest when compared to the fully fledged veterans departments operated by the governments of other Commonwealth and Allied countries. Clear support for the Legion's approach is now demonstrated by the House of Commons, where early day motion 19 calls for the establishment of an ex-service affairs unit within an existing ministry, with a designated minister to be responsible for the care and welfare of all ex-service people and their dependants. Currently 284 MPs from all parties have signed it, a clear majority of those free to do so.

Yours faithfully,
IAN G. TOWNSEND,
Secretary General,
The Royal British Legion,
48 Pall Mall, SW1.
December 17.

From Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, Minister of State for Social Security

Sir, In response to Michael Gove's article, I must stress that not one of the 330,000 veterans and widows currently receiving war pensions will lose a penny of their pension as a result of either of the two proposed changes to the war pensions scheme.

The first of these changes is a package of proposed measures intended to simplify the administration of the scheme. I wrote to the Central Advisory Committee on War Pensions on Budget day giving details of this package and seeking comments by January 17, 1997. Final decisions will be made only after very careful consideration of the committee's response.

The other change, relating to hearing loss, is in direct response to current medical opinion that service-related, noise-induced sensorineural hearing loss does not intensify any other form of such loss, such as that induced by age. The law requires the War Pensions Agency to make decisions on the basis of medical opinion. There is no discretion in the matter.

Mr Gove calls for "a minister dedicated to the demands of veterans". If this were to require a separate government department, with its own network of offices around the country to deal with ex-servicemen on matters such as healthcare, housing, employment and social security benefits, expensive duplication would be the result.

Alternatively, a minister and a single office in Whitehall could only act as a liaison point: it would simply create an extra layer of bureaucracy for ex-servicemen and women.

Yours etc,
JOHN MACKAY,
Department of Social Security,
Richmond House,
79 Whitehall, SW1.
December 17.

Red Cross parcels

From the Director General of the British Red Cross

Sir, Your leading article, "Red Cross bungle" (December 19), is regrettable, particularly given your strong support and understanding of our work over the years.

Our efforts to feed asylum-seekers in this country are a response to a humanitarian need; these individuals have virtually no other means of support. The provision of food and hygiene parcels has not been undertaken in order to embroil us in a political debate and our activity is not a "challenge" to the Government or part of a left-wing campaign.

As ever we remain, uniquely, a neutral and impartial organisation. Failure to respond to this group of people here in the UK, who will also know of our work in their countries of origin, would have gone against our mission to assist the most vulnerable.

We appreciate enormously the support *The Times* gives us and trust that you will understand that it is our role to help the most vulnerable in times of emergency — at home or abroad, regardless of politics.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WHITLAM,
Director General,
British Red Cross,
9 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1.

From Dr M. F. Perutz, OM, CH, FRS

Sir, Does your leader berate the Red Cross for not allowing asylum-seekers to starve on the streets of London because its acts of mercy might encourage others to seek refuge here?

I approve of the Red Cross's action, not because I am a left-winger, but because I am a Christian.

Yours faithfully,
M. F. PERUTZ,
MRC Laboratory of
Molecular Biology,
Hills Road, Cambridge.
December 20.

Care of South Downs

From Viscount Hampden

Sir, As a member of a family who have owned, farmed, managed and cared for a part of the South Downs since the days when the rent was paid for in sharpened arrowheads, I was dismayed by the letter (December 11) from the President of the Council of National Parks, supported by other luminaries, calling for the South Downs to be given the status of a National Park.

The South Downs are quite different from any other piece of beautiful landscape in that they are not wild. They need constant management to retain their appeal and this is done by owners and farmers anxious both to retain this fragile beauty and provide some form of economic return.

Without proper local management and an economic return the South Downs would rapidly revert to the unsightly mess of scrub experienced in the agricultural depression of the 1930s, when things got so bad that the decision of the Agricultural War Committee to plough up the Downs was warmly welcomed.

The beauty of the South Downs can best be retained by local co-operation between owners and farmers and the local authorities close to the scene. An example of this is Mount Caburn, an ancient hill fort behind this house which is now administered as a Nature Reserve with full agreement and co-operation between English Nature in Lewes and myself here. That is how it should work.

Yours sincerely,
HAMPDEN,
Glynde Place, Glynde, Lewes, Sussex.
December 17.

From Dr Bruce E. Davison

Sir, The complacency shown by Councillor Dunn (letter, December 17) is astounding. If he and his development control committee are claiming responsibility for the protection for the South Downs, one has only to look at the destruction and commercial development which has subsumed the area north and west of Brighton, and indeed along much of the length of the A27, to see that he and his committee have singularly failed.

The sooner a body with an overview and teeth against planning blight the better; it would appear to be the only way to safeguard this wonderful heritage.

Yours faithfully,
B. E. DAVISON,
12 Dagmar Road, Wood Green, N22.
December 17.

New £2 coin

From Mr Michael Adler

Sir, Would it not be more logical to mint a £5 coin to replace the £5 note than to issue a £2 coin (report, December 18)?

Yours faithfully,
L. M. ADLER,
5 Wychcombe Studios,
England's Lane, NW4.
December 18.

From Mr Peter Anderson

Sir, Many countries still use notes for values of less than our pound, which is distinctly more convenient than a heavy pocketful of coins. One cannot but wonder whether the £1 and £2 coins are more for the Treasury's convenience than for the public's.

In this age of choice, would it not be better to have £1 and £2 notes as well as coins, and let people choose which they find most convenient?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. ANDERSON,
4 Sweetmore Close,
Lower Oddington,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.
December 18.

From Mr Nicholas Rogers

Sir, Newton was not the first to use the simile "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants", to be inscribed on the new £2 coins.

The 12th-century philosopher John of Salisbury, in his *Metalogicon*, cites Bernard of Chartres (died around 1130) as having compared our dependence on antiquity to a dwarf able to see farther because he is perched on the shoulders of a giant.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS ROGERS (Archivist),
Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.
December 18.

Business letters, page 25

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

'Times' reporting in the Nazi era

From Mrs Jill Paton Walsh

Sir, I have no knowledge of whether *The Times* in 1936 suppressed news reports of the unfolding calamity in Germany (letter from Mr T. H. Hawkins, December 19). But having recently, for private research, read *The Times* for the first six months of 1936, I am in a position to assure your readers that what the paper did publish over that period was enough to inform all but the wilfully blind of the nature of the Nazi regime, and the appalling injustices being visited on German Jews.

I have believed all my life that the appeasers in my parents' generation did not know the nature of the regime they proposed to compromise with. I have been shocked to discover in your columns how clearly they should have known.

Yours sincerely,
JILL PATON WALSH,
72 Water Lane, Histon, Cambridge.
December 19.

From Mr Mark Barrington-Ward

Sir, Research does not bear out Mr Hawkins's charge that Geoffrey Dawson, then Editor of *The Times*, "deliberately suppressed reports from Germany which might well have compelled Baldwin and other appeasers to face the facts", although this charge against Dawson and his deputy, my father Robin Barrington-Ward, has become part of the demonology of appeasement.

Geoffrey L. Pearson, who was chief foreign sub-editor and himself a critic of appeasement, is on record as writing in 1978:

> I am happy now to repeat that never, to my knowledge, did Dawson censor any despatch from [Norman] Ebbutt [the *Times* correspondent in Berlin, expelled by the Nazis in August 1937 because of what he wrote in the paper] or any other correspondent in Berlin. It would have been impossible for him to alter a message from Berlin — or anywhere else — without my being aware of it.

Franklin Reid Gannon, in his study of *The British Press and Germany, 1936-1939* (Oxford University Press, 1971), examined the complex record of ten national newspapers and concluded:

> For the researcher today, *The Times* remains the best and most complete source of reliable contemporary information about, and assessments of, events in Germany.

Meanwhile criticism should focus on the case made in the leader columns.

Yours sincerely,
MARK BARRINGTON-WARD,
8 Apsley Road, Oxford.
December 19.

Stable companions

From the Reverend Edward Jarosz

Sir, Paul Heiney (Weekend, December 21) ponders on the origins of the ox and ass, absent from the Gospel accounts of the Nativity, but commonly seen on pictorial representations going as far back as Roman sarcophagi.

Perhaps a clue is given by Isaiah i, 3 where the Prophet states: "The ox knows its owner, and the ass its master's crib." The early Christians, in order to demonstrate their belief that Jesus Christ was the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy, often added Old Testament motifs to their depictions of scenes from his life.

No doubt having once appeared, the ox and ass appealed to popular imagination, and became a permanent fixture in nativity scenes, further reinforced by St Francis of Assisi in the 13th century, and by the composers of our contemporary carols, mainly from the Victorian era.

I wish Mr Heiney's crocodile well, but I fear it will be many centuries before it develops a pedigree to match that of the ox and ass.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD JAROSZ,
27 Cavendish Road East,
The Park, Nottingham.
December 21.

Waste not, want not

From Mr Frank Wilson

Sir, I believe that I have, this Christmastide, discovered an extra use for the postcode.

I am rather long in the tooth and several of my acquaintances have phoned me "Just to check I've got the postcode correct". I take this to be a euphemism for "Is the old blighter still alive or can I save the cost of a card and stamp?"

Yours geriatrically,
FRANK WILSON,
Tucketts, Lower Denford,
Hungerford, Berkshire.
December 21.

Top hat

From Mr Christopher Cochrane, QC

Sir, I note that the winner of your Christmas Chess Quiz "will be the first answer drawn out of a hat which solves all four puzzles correctly" (Weekend, December 21).

Could you, please, inform me as to where I can acquire such a hat so that next year I may have a better chance of success.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER COCHRANE,
2-3 Gray's Inn Square, WC1.
December 22.

COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 23: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Tetbury Railway Yard, Gloucestershire.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester celebrates her 95th birthday tomorrow.
Princess Alexandra celebrates her 60th birthday tomorrow.

Church in Wales

Appointments
Diocese of Llandaff
The Rev Paul Overend, Anglican Chaplain to the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, and Assistant Chaplain to the University of Wales Colleges of Cardiff has been appointed Senior Anglican Chaplain to the University of Wales Colleges of Cardiff.
The Rev Malcolm Railton Ellis, Vicar of Cardiff St John Baptist, is also to be Precentor of Llandaff Cathedral.
The Rev Stephen Weeding, Curate of Merthyr Tydfil Christ Church, has been appointed Vicar in the Parish of Abercynon.
The Rev Michael Leslie Wishart, formerly Royal Naval Chaplain, has been appointed Rector of Dowlais. The Institution and Induction will take place on February 18.
Canon John Henry Lewis Rowlands, Warden of St Michael's Theological College, Llandaff, has been appointed Vicar of the Parish of Whitchurch.

Retirement
Diocese of St Asaph
The Rev Frederick Alfred George Mudge, Vicar of Penarth All Saints, retired on December 1.

Christmas birthdays

Christmas Eve
Mr J.K. Ashcroft, former chairman, Coloroll Group, 48; Mr A.T. Baillie, diplomat, 64; Mrs Mair Barnes, former managing director, Woolworths, 52; Professor Anthony Clare, psychiatrist, 54; Sir Colin Cowdrey, cricketer, 64; Sir Gerald Elliot, former chairman, Christian Salvesen, 73; Mr Jeremy Hindley, racehorse trainer, 53; Sir James Hodge, diplomat, 53; Dame Joan Kelleher, former director, WRAC, 81; Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP, 60; Dr John Marek, MP, 56; Miss Suzy Menkes, fashion journalist, 53; Miss Thea Porter, fashion designer, 69; Mr John Taylor, MP, 59; Miss Carol Vorderman, broadcaster, 36; Mr Philip Ziegler, author, 67.

Christmas Day
Lord Annan, 80; Mr James Bolger, racehorse trainer, 55; Miss S.J. Browne, former Principal, Newnham College, Cambridge, 72; Sir Kenneth Calman, Chief Medical Officer, HM Government, 55; Mr F.N. David, former commandant, Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, 53; Professor Christopher Frayling, Rector, Royal College of Art, 50; Lord Grade, 90; the Right Rev Noël Jones, Bishop of Sodor and Man, 64; Sir Nick Larmour, former diplomat, 80; Miss Annie Lennox, singer, 42; Professor Philip Love, Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool University, 57; Sir Peter Matthews, former Chief Constable, Surrey, 79; Mr Ismail Merchant, film producer, 60; Professor Phyllida Parsloe, Warden, Wills Hall, Bristol, 66; Lord Sheppard of Didgemere, 64; Mr Nigel Starmer-Smith, sports commentator, 52; Sir Noel Stockdale, life president, Asda Group, 76; the Right Rev B.N.Y. Vaughan, former Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, 79; Sir Christopher Wates, chief executive, Wates Building Group, 57.

Church news

New Bishop of Huntingdon
The Venerable John Flack, Archdeacon of Pontefract, and an Honorary Canon of Wakefield Cathedral, diocese of Wakefield, is to be Suffragan Bishop of Huntingdon, in the diocese of Ely, succeeding the Right Rev Gordon Roe, who retires on January 5, 1997.

Appointments
The Rev Jonathan Baker, Assistant Curate, St Mark's, Reading: to be Priest-in-charge, parishes of St Mark Reading and Holy Trinity, Reading (Oxford).
The Rev Paul Barlow, Assistant Curate, Team Parish of Hale w Badshot Lea (Guildford): to be Assistant Curate, Christchurch (Winchester).
The Rev Kurt Barron, Assistant Curate, St Mary the Virgin and All Souls, Bulwell (Southwell): to be Team Vicar, St Albans, Southend Team Ministry (Chelmsford).
Canon Richard Bollard, Vicar, SS Peter and Paul, Coleshill: to be *also* Diocesan Ecumenical Officer (Birmingham).
The Rev Peter Tullett, Assistant Curate, Worle Team Ministry (Bath and Wells): to be Prison Chaplain, HM Young Offenders' Institution, Portland (Salisbury).
The Rev Anita Thorne, Priest-in-charge, Olveston (Bristol): to be Priest-in-charge, Portland All Saints w St Peter (Salisbury).

Resignations and retirements
Canon Stella Collins, Curate (NSM), Wilton w Netherhampton and Fugglestone, and Adviser on Women's Ministry (Salisbury): to retire January 5, 1997.
The Rev Robert Lowrie, Vicar, Redlynch and Morgan's Vale (Salisbury): to retire February 28, 1997.
Canon Bryan Robinson, Vicar, St Andrew w St Margaret, Burnley and Priest-in-charge, St James, Burnley (Blackburn): to retire May 31, 1997.
The Rev Anthony Wibberley, Vicar, St Margaret, Ingol, Preston (Blackburn): to resign December 31.

NEIL MUNNS

Rudolf, Tinsel and Noel, three black-footed South African penguins, who have just been born at London Zoo. Visitors will be able to see them in the zoo's penguin pool early next year

Church services for Christmas Day and Boxing Day

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Sancte Albano (Healey Willan), On Christmas Night (arr Ledger), The Archbishop.
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 11 Euch, Ding Dong Merrily on high (arr. Wood), Darke in E, Carols.
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Hodie (Britten), Kelly in C, I saw three ships (arr Jackson), In the bleak midwinter (Darke), Rt Rev M Santer; 4 EP. (26) 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 4 EP.
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M; 10.30 Euch, St Nicholas Mass (Haydn). The Bishop of Blackburn.
BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 H Euch, Mass in three voices (Byrd), Gloria & Creed (Merbecke); 11 H Euch, Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart). The Dean: 5.45 E by candlelight, Qui creavit coelum (carol of the Nuns of Chester).
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 8 HC (BCP); 10 Festal Euch, Missa Brevis (Mozart), The Bishop: 3.30 EP. (26) 8.15 M & HC; 5.15 EP.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Choral M, Out of your sleep (Bennett), Responses (Piccolo), Ireland in F, Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc); 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart), There is no rose (Vann). The Archbishop; 3.15 E, Responses (Piccolo), Howells in G, Carols. (26) 7.30 M; 8, 10.15 HC; 3.15 E.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Puer natus in Bethlehem, Stanford in C & F, Hodie Christus natus est (Carter), The Dean; 4 E.
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8, 12.10 HC; 9.30 Euch, Canon D Knight; 11 A Service for Christmas Morning, I saw three ships (arr Ledger), Te Deum in C (Stanford), Still, still, still (German arr Ledger), The Bishop of Chelmsford; 5.15 EP. (26) 8.15, 10 HC; 8.45 MP; 5.15 EP.
CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch (BCP), The Bishop of Birkenhead; 11.30 M, The Dean; 4.15 Choral E with Carols. (26) 8, 11.30 HC.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in B flat, Responses (Bertalot), Sans Day Carol (arr Rutter), The Bishop; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), The Dean: 5.30 E. (26) 9.30 M; 10 HC; 5.30 E.
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in E, The Bishop of Oxford; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Brevis in F (Mozart), The Dean; 6 E. (26) 6 E (Said).
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis St Joannis (Haydn), Joys Seven (Cleobury), Here is the little door (Howells); 3.30 EP. (26) 9 MP; 12.40 MP; 1.10 Roman Catholic Mass; 5 EP.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 7.15, 8 HC; 10 M, Christmas Acclamations (Eden), Hodie Christus natus est, The Dean; 11.15 HC, Christmas Acclamations (Eden), Messe de minuit (Charpentier), The Bishop; 3.30 E, Christmas Acclamations (Eden), Fantasia on Christmas Carols (Vaughan Williams). (26) 8 HC; 9 MP; 12.30 Prayers for Peace and Justice; 5.15 EP.
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC, Canon D Green; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Canon J Inge; 3.45 E, Prece (Rose), Jesus College Service (Mathias), Fantasia on Christmas Carols (Vaughan Williams). (26) 7.40 M; 8 HC; 3.45 EP.
GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon Dr M Palmer; 9.45 S Euch (ASB), Missa Brevis in C (Mozart), The Bishop of Guildford; 11.15 M, Sussex Carol (arr Ledger), V Rev A G Wedderspoon; 4 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 HC; 10.30 Choral M, The Angels and Shepherds, Responses (Smith), Jubilate (Britten), On this day earth shall ring (Stewart). The Provost. (26) 7.40 MP; 8, 11 HC; 10.50 L; 5 EP.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass in G (Schubert), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), The little road to Bethlehem (Head), The Bishop of Lichfield; 5.30 EP. (26) 9.30 HC; 3.30 Carol Service.
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), O little town of Bethlehem (Davies), The Precentor; 11.15 M, Break forth O beauteous heavenly light (Bach), The Dean; 3.45 E, Responses (Radcliffe), Coll Reg (Howells), God with us (Tavener), Dieu parmi nous (Messiaen), Ding dong merrily on high (Wood), Dieu parmi nos (Messiaen). (26) 7.40 M; 8, 10.30 HC; 4 EP.
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch; 3 Choral E; 4 HC.
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), The Dean. (26) 9.45 MP; 10, 1.10 HC; 3.30 EP.
NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC, Canon B Langley; 9.30 S Euch, Love came down at Christmas (Ritchie), I saw three ships (arr T Hone). Canon B Langley.
NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Family Service.
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 7.30, 8.15 HC; 9.30 M, Stanford in C, Sans Day Carol (arr Rutter), The Precentor; 11 Euch, Darke in F, The Dean; 3.30 E, Coll Reg (Wood), In the bleak midwinter (Darke). (26) 4 E.
RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, Canon M Glanville Smith; 9.30, 12.30 Euch, Revd D Murfet; 11.30 M, Hodie Christus natus est, Britten in C, See amid the winter's snow, The Dean; 4 E w/ Carols, Canon K Pushon. (26) 9 M; 9.45 Euch, Bishop of Ripon; 10.30 Pilgrimage to Fountains Abbey; 5.30 E.
ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Organ Solo Mass (Mozart), I saw three ships (Lloyd), The Dean; 3.15 E. (26) 9.10 M; 9.30 HC; 5.30 E.
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Adam lay y-bounden (Ord), Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), In the bleak mid winter (Darke), V Rev D Watson; 11.45 Family Service, Canon J Osborne; 3 E, Procession and Blessing of Crib, On Christmas Night (arr Willcocks), Stanford in A, Hodie Christus Natus est (Sweelinck). (26) 7.30 MP & HC; 11 HC; 4 EP.
SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP, 10.30 S Euch, The Bishop of Sheffield; 3 EP. (26) 10 MP; 10.30 Euch; 4 EP.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, The Provost; 11 Choral Euch, Schubert in G, Tomorrow shall be my dancing day (Gardner), Away in a Manger (arr Philip Moore), The Provost.
SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 8 HC, Ding Dong merrily on high (arr Wood); 9.30 Parish Communion, The Provost; 11 M, Britten in C, The Precentor; 12.30 HC; 3.15 E. (26) 7.30 HC; 8 MP; 9.45 HC; 5.45 E.
TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), I saw three ships (arr Marshall), The Bishop of St Germans; 5.30 EP. (26) 9 M; 9.30 HC; 5.30 EP.
WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Parish C, I sing of a maiden (Hadley), Ding dong merrily (arr Wilcocks), Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 11 S Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), The Provost; 5 E.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10.30 Abbey Euch, Missa brevis in D K194 (Mozart), Glory to God (Handel), Canon A Harvey; 3 Festal E, Responses (Rose), Purcell in B flat. (26) 8 HC; 9.30 M (said); 12.30 HC; 4 E, Responses (Neary), Sumsion in G, A Ceremony of Carols (Britten).
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 (Children & Families), 12 M; 10 MP; 10.30 SM, Missa O Magnum mysterium (Victoria), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Dieu parmi nous (Messiaen), The Cardinal; 3.30 V&B, Magnificat primi toni (Bevan), In dulci jubilo (arr Pearsall), A spotless rose (Howells), Les Anges (Messiaen).
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8 HC; 10.30 M, Coll Reg (Howells), Ding Dong (Bawden), The Bishop; 11.30 Euch, Benedicamus Domino (Warlock), Coronation Mass (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc), Fete (Langlais); 3.30 E, Dyson in D, Responses (Lloyd), Fantasia on Christmas Carols (Vaughan Williams). (26) 8, 12 HC; 5.30 E.
WORCESTER CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Away in a manger (Lucas), The Bishop of Dudley; 4 E with Carols, Responses (Radcliffe), Dyson in D, Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc). (26) 8.45 M & HC; 4 EP.
YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa brevis (Mozart), O magnum mysterium (Poulenc), The Most Rev Dr D Hope; 11.30 M, Britten in E & C, V Rev R Furnell; 4 E, St Paul's Service (Howells), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck). (26) 7.30 M; 7.50, 11.30 HC; 5 EP.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass in F major K192 (Mozart), Gabriel's Message (arr Pettman), Gaudete! Christus natus est (arr Davies), Joys Seven (arr Cleobury).
ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid, Pregethwr Y Deon; 9.30 Family Euch, The Minor Canon; 11.15 Choral M, Venite (Alcock), On this day (Stewart), The Dean; 4.15 EP. (26) 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 4.15 EP.
ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS & HC, Rev R Frazer.
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 10.30 Festal Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), The Bishop of Edinburgh.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), The Dean; 3.15 E, Stanford in C, Responses (Smith), For unto us a child is born (Handel), Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc). (26) 9, 12.30 HC; 9.30 M; 4 L; 5 Christmas music, Preb R Swan.
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony. Diocesan Bishop Met. Anthony.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 M, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), Rev I E Davies.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 10.30 Family Service, Rev J Cook.
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11 Sunday School.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11 Christmas Day Service.
FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 11 Family Service, Rev S Millar; 12.15 HC, Rev S Millar.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 M, Missa Bel'amfitrit altera (Lassus), O magnum mysterium (Victoria), 12.30, 4.30 M; 4 Benediction, Alma redemptoris mater (Palestrina).
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11.30 Christmas Day Service, Rev Dr L Griffiths.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30.
ST AUGUSTINE, Queen's Gate, London, SW7: 11 Virga Jesse (Bruckner), Hark the Herald, Mass for Four Voices (Byrd), Gloria (Byrd), God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Unto us a Boy is Born, Agnus Dei (Byrd), On this Day Earth shall Ring (Stewart), O come all ye faithful.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral Euch, Andreas Fischer CRM.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Family Euch, Missa Brevis in D K194 (Mozart).
ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, I saw three ships (Sidwell), Coronation Mass (Mozart), Bethlehem Down (Warlock), Rev P Bishop.
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 10 HC; 11 Family Service.
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 10, 11 Masses (with carols).
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis in F (Haydn). The Rector.
ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 10.30 S Euch, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Rev A Meldrum.
ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev D Reeves.
ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family C, Rev M Okello.
ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), O magnum mysterium (Poulenc), Rev T Devonshire Jones.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 M, Responses (Smith), Britten in C, Nativity Carol (Rutter), Rev Dr P Bradshaw; 12.15 HC.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 10.30 Euch; 6.30 Carols & Readings, Rev B Schunemann.
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC 9.30 Parish Euch, Fr Gelli; 11.15 Choral M, The Vicar; 6.30 E.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: Midnight HM, Missa brevis in F (Mozart), Fr B Scott; 9 LM; 10.30 HM, Missa octavi toni (Lassus).
ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Mass no 2 in e minor (Bruckner), Ding dong merrily (arr Wood). (26) 10 HC.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Sancti Johannis de Deo (Haydn), Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc), Rev N Dawson.
ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa Hodie Christus Natus Est (Palestrina), The Blessed son of God (Vaughan Williams), Toccata, Adagio & Fugue in C (Bach), Fr W P Keyes.
CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Darke in E, Rev W J Booth.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC (1662); 11 M, Stanford in A, A Child is born (Scheidt), Sussex Carol (arr Ledger).
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 Family Euch, Mass (Hobson), Rev D Dewey.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Darke in F, The Chaplain.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP & HC, Break forth O beauteous (Bach), Responses (Shephard), Vaughan Williams in G, Dyson in D, Gloria in exelsis Deo (Weelkes), The Master.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), In dulci jubilo (arr Pearsall), Rev L H Bryan; 12 HC.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Darke in F, Infant King (Traditional), Rev C French.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.W. Bledsoe and Miss C.M. Boddington
The engagement is announced between Paul, youngest son of Mr Carter Bledsoe, of McLean, Virginia, USA, and the late Mrs Phyllis Kunze, and Celia, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.G. Boddington, of Broad Campden, Gloucestershire.

Mr E.J. Curtis and Miss R. Spalding
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Leonard Curtis, of Gravesend, Kent and Rowena, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Spalding, of Bedale, North Yorkshire.

Mr L.B.M. Foster and Miss A.J. MacKenzie
The engagement is announced between Benedict, fourth son of Mr and Mrs Michael Foster, of Richmond, Surrey, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian MacKenzie, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

Mr M. Harvey and Miss P.A. Cave
The engagement is announced between Michael, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Norman Harvey, of Preston, Hertfordshire, and Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Cave, of Ham Common, Surrey.

Mr J.P. Wallis and Miss J.L. Sherriff
The engagement is announced between Jamie, son of Mr and Mrs Peter H. Wallis, of London, and Joanna, daughter of Mr Arthur J. Sherriff, of Denham, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Paul J. Borrett, of London.

Dr P.D.W. Kiely and Dr T.M. Shah
The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Dr and Mrs D.G. Kiely, of Emsworth, Hampshire, and Tanja, daughter of Syed N.A. and Gertraud-Luise Shah, of London.

Marriages

Viscount Coke and Miss P.M. Whately
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham, Dorset, of Viscount Coke, elder son of the Earl of Leicester and Valeria, Viscountess Coke, both of Norfolk, to Miss Polly Whately, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Whateley, of Dorset. The Right Rev E.J.K. Roberts officiated, assisted by Canon J McNeish.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Molly Miller-Mundy, Guy Coltman-Rogers, Iona Stewart-Richardson, Archie Bellville, Emma Finlayson and Archie Philpotts. Mr Robbie Buxton was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr B.C. Albery and Miss C.R.K. Holmes
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 7 at St George's, Hanover Square, W1, between Bronson, son of Mr Ian Albery and Mrs Barbara Albery, of London, and Camilla, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Holmes, formerly of Ravensden, Bedfordshire.

Anniversaries

Christmas Eve
BIRTHS: King John, reigned 1199-1216, Oxford, 1167; St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, Loyola, Province of Guipúzcoa, 1491; George Crabbe, poet, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, 1754; Adam Mickiewicz, poet, Novogrodek, Lithuania, 1798; James Joule, physicist, Salford, Lancashire, 1818; Matthew Arnold, poet and critic, Laleham, Middlesex, 1822; John Morley, Viscount Morley of Blackburn, statesman and writer, Blackburn, 1838; George I, King of Greece 1863-1913, Copenhagen, 1845; Juan Ramón Jiménez, poet, Nobel laureate 1956, Moguer, Spain, 1881; Louis Jouvet, actor, Finistère, 1887; Howard Hughes, manufacturer, aviator and film producer, Houston, 1905.
DEATHS: Vasco da Gama, navigator, Cochin, India, 1524; Thomas Beddoes, physician, 1808; William Makepeace Thackeray, novelist, London, 1863; Léon Bakst, stage designer, Paris, 1924; Alban Berg, composer, Vienna, 1935; Louis Aragon, writer, Paris, 1982.
Verdi's opera *Aïda* was performed for the first time in Cairo, 1871.
The London Coliseum opened, 1904.
Libya became independent and King Idris I acceded to the throne, 1951.
Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan as the Kabul Government fell, 1979.

Christmas Day
BIRTHS: Orlando Gibbons, musician, Cambridge, 1583; Sir Isaac Newton, physicist, Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire, 1642; William Collins, poet, Chichester, 1721; Dorothy Wordsworth, writer, Cockermouth, Cumberland, 1771; Alexander Scriabin, composer, Moscow, 1872; Mohammed Ali Jinnah, 1st Governor-General of Pakistan 1947-48, Karachi, 1876; Maurice Utrillo, painter, Paris, 1883; Conrad Hilton, hotel magnate, San Antonio, New Mexico, 1887; Humphrey Bogart, actor, New York City, 1899; Mohamed Anwar Sadat, President of Egypt 1970-81, Tala, 1918.
DEATHS: Joseph Fouché, Duc d'Otrante, statesman, Trieste, 1820; Karel Căpek, dramatist, Prague, 1938; W.C. Fields, actor, Pasadena, 1946; Charles Pathé, film producer, 1957; Otto Loewi, physician, Nobel laureate 1936, New York, 1961; Sir Charles (Charlie) Chaplin, silent film star, Switzerland, 1977; Joan Miró, abstract painter, Majorca, 1983.
The first eisteddfod took place, Cardigan Castle, 1176.
The Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, 1620.
The first Christmas tree in Britain was erected at Queen's Lodge, Windsor, by the German-born Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III, 1800.
Swimming in the ice-cold Serpentine was initiated, Hyde Park, London, 1864.
King George V made the first royal Christmas broadcast, 1932.
Nicolae Ceausescu, Romanian dictator, was executed, 1989.

Latest wills are on the facing page

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

He will destroy death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face, and throughout the world remove the indignities from his people Isaiah 25 : 8

BIRTHS

BRASSARD - On 20th December at the Portland Hospital to Adèle (née Webster) and Nigel - a son Louis Forbes.

AGUIAR - Morgan Alexander on December 18th at the Portland Hospital to Rénee Aguiar-Lucander and Newton Xavier Aguiar, a beautiful son.

AGUIAR - Morgan Alexander on December 18th at the Portland Hospital to Rénee Aguiar-Lucander and Newton Xavier Aguiar, a beautiful son.

BARTLETT Theresa and Robert are delighted to announce the arrival of Douglas Mark Edell, on December 18th.

BRASINGTON - On 17th December at the Portland Hospital to Leigh (née Sinclair) and Nick, a beautiful daughter Georgia Leigh.

BROWNE - On 17th December at the Portland Hospital to Daniel and Charlotte, a daughter, Georgia Sophia.

BULLMORE - On November 30th at University College Hospital London, to Mary Pitt and Edward Bullmore, a son John Sidney, a welcome brother for Alfred.

BURCH - On the 19th December to Nancy (Née McCubbin) and Giles, a son, Rupert Alexander, a brother for Henry Silas.

CLARK-ORCHARD - On 16th December at the Portland Hospital, Theo Henry Orchard born to Deborah and Tony.

CONLEY - On December 16th at the Portland Hospital to Regina (née Niner) and Kevin, a beautiful daughter Kelley - a sister for Ashley.

DALE - On December 7th 1996 at the Portland Hospital to Jane (née Boxer) & Alexander, two beautiful sons Harry and Charles.

DRUMMOND - On 18th December, to Katya (née Andreyev) and John, a daughter, Laura Tatiana Rowena.

EHINMOLA - On December 19th at The Portland Hospital to Olasumbo and Ayodele, a beautiful daughter. A joy to behold.

FOUQUET - On 18th December at the Portland Hospital to Sophie and Christophe. A daughter Bertille, a sister for Antonin.

FRASER - to Paloma Porras de Fraser and Damian Fraser, of Esopo 55, Polanco, Mexico DF 11560, on 20th December in Mexico City - a daughter, Ana Sofia.

GRIFFITH - On December 14th at the Portland Hospital to Robert and Cheryll, the blessing of a beautiful son, Alexander Edward.

HALS - On 18th December at 10:35 am at the Portland Hospital to Linda (née McDonald) and Trevor, a beautiful 9lb daughter Charlotte Maery.

HODGSON - On December 18th, in Exeter, to Rebecca (Née Martin) and Stephen, a daughter (Tabitha Rose Tibi).

HOLLY - Andrea, on 19th December at the Portland Hospital to Gabrielle and Donald McCree, a sister for Lorayne and Christopher.

HOWARD - On December 21st at the Portland Hospital to Michell and Danny Howard, a beautiful daughter Phenicia, a sister for Zack.

MORRISS - On December 17th, Finlay George, second son to Julie and David, new brother and playmate for Archie. Just what he wanted for Christmas.

PALMER - On December 15th at the Portland Hospital to Christina and Timothy, a son Jackson Laidlaw Palmer. A little brother for Joanna.

POLHILL - On December 11th, to Claire and Julian, a son, John (Jack) Theodore Miles, a brother for Harry, Eleanor and Georgina.

RANDAZZA - On December 20th at the Portland Hospital to Tammy and Scott, the blessing of a beautiful daughter, Caitlin Elizabeth.

SAMUEL - Ugonna on December 20th at the Portland Hospital to Chinyere and Uche Mgbebuihe, a beautiful son to the glory of the almighty God.

SAUNDERS - On December 14th, to Katherina (née Peyton-Jones) and Michael, a son, Jeremy Peter.

SCHNELLMANN - On 21st July at St George's, Kew, Melbourne, Australia, to Lisa and Richard, a daughter, Victoria Olivia, a sister for Elizabeth and Sam.

SULLIVAN - Kate Ehrmann on December 19th to Andrea and Peter, a beautiful sister for big brother Jack.

SYMES - on December 21st at St Mary's Paddington, to Caroline (née Beaumont) and Ben, a son, Arthur Luke Beaumont.

THOMAS - Dianne and David are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Catriona Carys Stewart, at Bangor Hospital, a sister for Jennifer.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
Deadlines & Opening Times
Birth, Marriage & Death Notices.
For notices to appear on Thursday December 26th and Friday December 27th the deadline is Tuesday December 24th at 12 noon.
Wednesday December 25th Office Closed.
Thursday December 26th Office Closed.
Normal hours Friday December 27th.
☎ 0171 680 6880

DEATHS

BERRY Raymond, on 22nd December 1996, loving husband of Phyllis and devoted Father of Carol, Gavin, Virginia, Sandra, Jamie and Jonathan and Grandfather of Fourteen. Cremation private. Thanksgiving service to be announced later.

BUTTERFIELD - Geoffrey C J, widower at home on 21st December, after very short illness, in his 95th year. Cherished and adored generous loving father of Anne and Michael, much loved Pumps of his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Funeral service Salisbury Crematorium, Friday 27th December, 13.40 hours. Family flowers. Details Powell 01703 862249.

CROSS - W.B.R.(Brian). Peacefully in his sleep on December 21st aged 87. Loved husband of Janet for 61 years. Dear father of Andrew, Hilary and Kate, and grandfather of Joanna, Anthony, Michael and Nicholas. Private cremation. Memorial Service to be announced. Donations in his memory, if desired, to the National Trust.

de KLEE - Murray, died 21st December 1996. Funeral 1pm Saturday 28th December, Torosay Church, Isle of Mull.

DONSKA Maria, Pianist, born 1912 died 21st December 1996 at home. Funeral service 2 pm Friday 27th December at Boughton Malherbe Church, Near Lenham, Maidstone, Kent. No flowers please, but donations to the Musicians' Benevolent Fund.

HODGKINSON - Basil, husband of Joyce, father of Kay and Sonia. Died in Hospital 21st December 1996. Funeral at Syston Church, near Bristol on Monday 30th December 1996 at 2.30pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research c/o Co-Operative Funeral Service 18 Old Vicarage Rd, St Thomas, Exeter, EX2 9BJ. Any enquiries please ring 0117 9073059

JAMES - Peacefully at home on December 21st, aged 96. Thomas Geraint Illtyd James, retired surgeon, Central Middlesex Hospital, London. Funeral private. Donations, if desired, to The Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2 A3PN. A service of thanksgiving to be arranged.

LESSTER Lionel, after a very short illness, in his 97th year. Devoted husband of the late Rénee, father of Leila Lessof, and Carmel Gainsford. Much loved and respected father, father in law, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Deeply mourned by his family and friends.

LORTON on December 21st 1996, peacefully after a short illness, Margaret Ethel (Peggy), beloved widow of Howard Lorton. Funeral at All Saints Church, Evesham, on Friday 27th December at 12 noon. No flowers. Donations for The RNLI maybe sent care of E. Hill and son, Funeral Directors, Pershore WR10 1HZ.

MURCOTT - John Charles, Major, Royal Engineers (retired) died December 21st aged 59 in Angers, France. Beloved husband of Françoise, and Father of Nathalie, Emmanuel and Olivier. Much loved son of Stephen and Betsy Murcott and Brother of Stephanie, Rosalyn, Priscilla, Margaret and James. Until recently of Neenton, Shropshire.

ORR - Philip James, MBE, on December 21st, beloved husband of Joan, Requiem mass at St Winefride's Catholic Church, Welshpool on January 2nd at 12 noon. Cremation to follow privately. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St. Winefride's Church or to RNIB. Details from P. Evans 01938 553380.

PALMER - On 21st December, peacefully in hospital, John Fletcher of Gorsemoor Throwleigh and lately of Kinsale Sutherland, aged 90. Most loved husband, stepfather, uncle and friend. Family flowers only but donations if wished for Gidleigh Church, c/o K C Redstone, Moorlands, South Zeal, Okehampton, Devon EX20 2NZ. The funeral will be on Friday 27th December at 2 o'clock at The Church of the Holy Trinity, Gidleigh.

RICHES - On December 23rd at home, General Sir Ian Hurry Riches KCB, DSO, aged 88. Very dearly loved husband of Winifred, father of Jeremy and Jonathan, and very loving grandfather. Funeral private. Family only, no flowers. Thanksgiving Service to be announced later.

ROOPER Margaret on 20th December, peacefully after a long illness. Widow of David, much loved mother of Charmian and Jonathan, and grandmother of Hugo, Luke and Jemima. Service 12 noon, Friday 17th January, Christ Church, Victoria Road, London W8.

SCONCE - Suzanne (née Petri). Beloved wife of Esmond. Died 21st December at Staplehurst Manor Nursing Home. Requiem Mass at 11am on Monday 30th December at St. Theodore's Church, Cranbrook, followed by burial at Frittenden. R.I.P.

SHARP - Stephen Hugh, on December 21st 1996, suddenly, out shooting. Loved husband of Pamela, father of Caroline, Rowena, Timothy and Nicholas and proud "Dabba" to eight grandchildren. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service to be arranged.

STUBBS - Pat (née Rutledge), suddenly on Thursday 19th December in Greece. Beloved wife of the late Richard, mother of Judy Hague and Amanda Borkenhagen and grandmother of Emma, Sophie, Selina, William, Caroline and Emily. Burial has taken place.

STUDDERT - On 19 December, 1996, peacefully Lt. Col. A.T.S. (Tom) Studdert, Indian Grenadiers (Ret'd). Beloved husband of Betty, dear father of Atholl and grandfather of Elizabeth and Ann. Enquiries to Deric-Scott, Portman Lodge Funeral Home, Bournemouth. Tel; 01202 - 309609.

THORP - Bernard Hudson, aged 93, peacefully on 19 December 1996. Much loved husband of the late Mary, father of Elizabeth, Edward and Mark, grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral service Monday 30 December, 1.30pm, Stockport Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations to British Heart Foundation.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

GARNHAM - In ever loving memory of Percy Cyril Claude Garnham. From his son (J.C.G).

GRAHAM-JONES - On this day of his funeral 24th December 1996 we remember with deep sorrow the sudden death of Piers at the tragically early age of 31, beloved of Daniela, Kenza, Rachel, Ann and Catherine, of his friend Rupert and of Bill to whom he was the best man ever for 10 years and including his loved and faithful friend named simply 'Dog'. Rest In Peace Unforgettable Man.

PARNIGAN - In loving memory of Manoug Parikian, who died on Christmas Eve, 1987.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Over the New Year period the following deadline will apply:-
Notices to appear on:-
Tuesday December 31, Wednesday January 1 and Thursday January 2
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Tel: 0171 782 7347
Fax: 0171 782 7725

OBITUARIES

VANCE PACKARD

Vance Packard, American author, died on December 12 aged 82. He was born on May 22, 1914.

Vance Packard established his reputation as social critic in 1957 with the publication of *The Hidden Persuaders*, a bestselling book which demolished cosy images of advertising, revealing instead the insidious methods by which advertisers sway their markets. Packard introduced the idea of "subliminal projection" — the theory that split-second advertisements were being flashed to unwary television viewers in their own homes. The Orwellian overtones were not lost on an American public which, ever since the war, had become increasingly fond of conspiracy theories.

For Packard this book was only the start of a 30-year career in which he popularised serious social ideas raised by America's prosperous postwar society. Although he never tried to pass himself off as a specialist or academic, he wrote bestselling exposés on, among other subjects, sharp business practices, social mobility and child-rearing.

His strength lay more in his storytelling abilities than in any acute sociological analysis. He wrote passionately and with a sense of alarm and indignation which gripped his readers on a similarly emotional level. His work laid the ground for other writers who came later in the more overtly self-questioning 1960s. Betty Friedan, for one, only set to work on *The Feminine Mystique* (1963) after she had attended a Packard lecture. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962) and Ralph Nader's *Unsafe at any Speed* (1965) also owed a debt to the Packard school of journalism.

A native of Pennsylvania, Vance Oakley Packard graduated from Pennsylvania State University. After writing a column for the *Boston Record* he joined the Associated Press in 1938 and four years later joined the staff of *American Magazine*.

In 1956 he decided to concentrate full-time on research for his books. The first of these, *How to Pick a Mate* (1946), was followed by *Animal IQ* in 1950. But it was with *The Hidden Persuaders* that he gained overnight celebrity. Women, Packard demonstrated, would pay 25 cents for a bar of soap to clean their hands but $2.50 for one that promised to make their hands beautiful.

Packard introduced his theory of "subliminal projection" with the example of a New Jersey drive-in where, he contended, the screen had flashed the words "Eat Popcorn" at the audience for a split second — not long enough for it to register in their conscious minds, but long enough for them to be persuaded to visit the popcorn stand. Advertising executives denounced Packard's theory as malicious nonsense, but the idea took a firm hold with the American public, some of whom liked to claim that they were being subjected to subliminal advertising every time there was a hiccup on their television screen. The book remained at the top of bestseller lists for a year.

In his next book, *The Status Seekers* (1959), Packard tackled social mobility. America was, he argued, becoming more socially divisive in its finding of new ways to draw lines to "separate the elect from the non-elect". His third bestseller *The Waste Makers* (1960) demonstrated ways in which manufacturers and advertisers encouraged consumers to buy goods they could ill afford, and then prematurely discard them when a newer model was introduced.

Packard's writings incensed advertisers and manufacturers and the force of their reaction slightly took him aback. But his vision of an America hemmed in by vast bureaucratic organisations and manipulative agencies had struck a popular chord and he continued to write. The best of his subsequent books were *The Pyramid Climbers* (1962) in which he examined the strategies businessmen adopted in order to prosper in a large corporation; *A Nation of Strangers* (1972) which looked at the damaging effect of corporate transfers on America's home life; and *Our Endangered Children* (1983) in which Packard took a gloomy view of America's schooling system.

His last work *The Ultra Rich: How Much Is Too Much* (1989) explored the lives of 30 Americans whose average net worth was $330 million. Denouncing an "increasingly grotesque accumulation of family wealth", Packard showed that that sense of indignation which had made him one of the better-known popular journalists in America had evidently not mellowed with age.

He is survived by his wife Mamie, whom he married in 1938, and by their daughter and two sons.

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR HUGH THOMPSON

Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Thompson, KBE, Chief Naval Engineer Officer, 1987-89, and Deputy Controller of the Navy, 1986-89, died on December 11 aged 65. He was born on April 2, 1931.

IN THE Royal Navy, the appellation "ERA to ERA", that is to say a career from Engine Room Artificer to Engineer Rear-Admiral, is a notable rarity, to Vice-Admiral even more so. In his long service as a naval engineer, Hugh Thompson was responsible for the management of a number of technically advanced concepts in the field of warship propulsion systems, both for the Navy's surface fleet and its nuclear-powered submarines.

Educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, Hugh Leslie Owen Thompson had, so the story goes, had his seafaring enthusiasm kindled at the age of eight by being allowed by his grandfather to helm a firefighting float around Belfast Lough. He wanted to run away to sea, but, fortunately or unfortunately, his uncle was in command of the recruiting office and led him home by the ear.

However, joining the engineer artificer apprentice school at Rosyth in 1946, Thompson soon made his mark by being selected for transfer to officer training. He joined the naval college at Dartmouth in 1948 and after time at sea as a midshipman, reported to the naval engineering college at Plymouth. In 1951 he was awarded the King's Sword as the most outstanding student of his year, a prize requiring not only the demonstration of brainpower but leadership, a particular achievement for an ex-artificer apprentice.

Earning his steam plant watchkeeping ticket in the fast minelayer *Manxman*, Thompson then had two years in the cruiser *Bermuda* in the Mediterranean and Home Fleet. He was then selected for the advanced engineering course at Greenwich Naval College before going back to sea in 1957 as the senior engineer of the destroyer *Duchess*.

In 1959 Thompson returned to Greenwich to do the advanced nuclear engineering course. This was the year that the keel of Britain's first nuclear submarine, *Dreadnought*, was laid down at Vickers yard in Barrow. *Dreadnought* was to be built with an American reactor, but naval policy foresaw that her successors would be all-British and that the requisite expertise would have to be home-grown. Thompson was an early product of the new system and his next post as an assistant inspector in the reactor section of the Dreadnought project team was the first of several that he held at the Admiralty technical headquarters at Bath.

Promoted commander in December 1967 while an engineer inspector in the Marine Engineering Directorate at Bath, he again saw sea service as the engineer officer of the light fleet carrier *Triumph*, at that time employed as a mobile heavy repair ship supporting the Far East Fleet.

At his next posting as the naval liaison officer at the Rolls-Royce works at Derby, Thompson proved himself to be an outstanding overseer, looking after the naval interest during the construction and commissioning of power plants for the final Polaris submarines. His skills in helping people of very different persuasions — government, contractor and Navy — to work together were much valued. He returned to Bath and the marine engineering section of the submarine project team in 1974, sadly the year of the death of his wife Sheila, whom he had married in 1957.

Promoted captain in 1975, Thompson continued in the submarine project team as Assistant Director (Submarines) where he was responsible for the total development of the nuclear plant for the Trafalgar class of attack submarines and for formative work on that for the Trident ballistic missile submarines. He was selected in 1980 for the Royal College of Defence Studies at Belgrave Square, a year-long high-level staff course for the most gifted of all three Services.

Returning once more to Bath as the Deputy Director of Systems Design, he was appointed Director General of Marine Engineering for the whole Navy and subsequently Director General of Surface Ships. In these posts he was responsible for the further development of gas turbine propulsion and was deeply involved in the novel diesel-electric machinery design for the present frontline frigates of the Duke class.

In 1986 he became Deputy Controller of the Navy and Chief, Above-Water Systems, in the Ministry of Defence until his retirement in 1989. He was appointed KBE in 1987 and also held the post of Chief Naval Engineer Officer.

This was an era of much organisational change, driven both by technology and a continuous need to seek economies. Always at heart the classic "steam plumber" of yore — recognised by white overalls, electric torch and wheel-spanner — Hugh Thompson's strengths lay in a universal technical knowledge coupled to a calm, humane management style.

His first wife Sheila died in 1974. He is survived by his second wife Rosemary and the son and two daughters of the first marriage.

DAME ELIZABETH HILL

Dame Elizabeth Hill, DBE, Professor of Slavonic Studies, University of Cambridge, 1948-68, died on December 17 aged 96. She was born on October 24, 1900.

A PIONEER of Slavonic studies in Britain, Elizabeth Hill owed at least some of her influence to the participation of the Soviet Union in the Second World War. Before 1939 there had been fewer than fifty students reading Russian at Cambridge. But Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 changed all that.

During the war Hill was instrumental in destroying the notion that a knowledge of Russian was somehow an arcane and exceptional accomplishment. At one stage, just after the war, she could claim to have been responsible for giving some 2,000 young men a thorough grounding in the rudiments of the Russian language.

But equally important to her was the increased interest in Slavonic languages generally — and she was delighted when in 1948 she was promoted from being Reader in Russian (a post she had held since 1936) to a specially created Chair of Slavonic Studies. She was to hold this professorship for the next 20 years — always keen on widening the arc of interest within academia in such languages as Polish, Czech and Serbo-Croat, in all three of which Cambridge was eventually able to establish lectureships.

Elizabeth Mary (in Russian usage Elizaveta Feodorovna) Hill was born in Tsarist St Petersburg. She was the fifth child of Frederick Hill and Louise de Miller. The Hills were English and, despite having had business interests in Russia since the early 18th century, remained firmly so in both speech—and education. Her mother's family, on the other hand, originally stemming from Prussia, had, after four generations, become completely Russianised. Thus the children grew up bilingual.

Yet she had only just become 17 when there was a rude interruption to what had promised to be the ordered structure of her life. This came about through the outbreak of the Russian Revolution of November 1917. Her parents — no doubt prudently — decided to withdraw to England with their daughters, nevertheless confidently expecting to return home within a few months. They were never to see Russia or any of their worldly possessions again.

So, although barely an adult, Hill was forced to earn her living as a teacher of languages, holding a post for a time at a school in North Wales. In 1921, having saved her salary and also won a grant from the Ministry of Labour which maintained a fund to assist those whose education had been disrupted by the war, she entered University College London intending to specialise in French. But Sir Bernard Pares, realising a coming need for teachers of Russian, persuaded her to concentrate on this instead. His advice proved a little premature: no academic post was forthcoming, even when she had completed her PhD in 1928.

Undeterred, she supported herself by coaching, evening lectures, reviewing and translating. She became a constant reader at the British Museum; among the fruits of her studies there were her editions of *Dostoevsky's Letters to his Wife* (1930) and *Lenin's Letters* (1937). Her intimate knowledge of the curious anthropology of the Reading Room was also distilled in *For Readers Only* (written with Mudie, 1936).

The year of that book's publication also witnesssed her first breakthrough into English academic life. In 1936 she succeeded A. P. Goudy as Reader in Russian at Cambridge — a justified recognition of what she had managed to achieve against quite considerable difficulties (and also, incidentally, a belated vindication of Bernard Pares's advice to her).

When the war came she was, understandably, much in demand. She spent a good deal of time at the initially ill-fated Ministry of Information. But, once Stalin had thrown in his lot with the Allies, the work that really appealed to her was the urgent training of Russian interpreters, at first for the Army and then for the other Services. When, after the German surrender of May 1945, an even more urgent demand arose for Russian linguists to meet the needs of the Allied Control Commission, Hill was able to offer at Cambridge intensive courses in Russian (including technical Russian) — which both Whitehall and the Services eagerly took up.

After the war, Slavonic studies at Cambridge began to attract more and more students and and her naming as the faculty's founding professor in 1948 caused widespread pleasure. She was one of the university's first women professors and she became a professorial Fellow of Girton College (she had been elected a Fellow of University College London in 1946). All this time she had been assiduously building up the collections of Slavonic books in Cambridge — often a difficult task, where older books were concerned, thanks to the relative neglect of this field in recent times.

Her 20 busy years as a professor left her little time for writing. Even when she retired from her Chair in 1968, she, at the age of 68, characteristically accepted the Andrew Mellon Professorship of Slavic Languages and Literature at the University of Pittsburgh, 1968-70, and undertook much teaching elsewhere in the United States. It seemed nothing to her to reread the whole of Tolstoy's major works for a new course, or to appraise with pertinent comments during an all-night sitting "fifty splendid papers on Dostoevsky". Over many years she had also been assiduously collecting material in fields in which she had held lifelong interests, in particular the Russian stage and medieval Slav palaeography and hagiography.

Her outstanding qualities were inexhaustible energy and an intense interest in people (especially the eccentric and the young). With this went a natural impatience with narrowly academic attitudes and policies. A satirical eye and a mind which did not run in the channels of neat administrative formulae or day-to-day routine often made her ineffective on boards and committees: it was always in direct contact with colleagues and students that her great charm and capacity to inspire were fully deployed. It is to her devoted work that the present flowering state of Slavonic studies and excellent research facilities in Cambridge are in large measure due.

Her services to the development of Slavonic studies were recognised by her appointment as DBE in 1976 and by an honorary LittD by the University of East Anglia in 1978.

In 1984 she married with full Orthodox rites Stojan Veljkovic, a member of a prominent Belgrade family with longstanding British connections. The marriage was dissolved last year.

CHARLES PROCTOR

Charles Proctor, OBE, conductor, died on November 26 aged 91. He was born on April 5, 1905.

ALTHOUGH he began his musical career as a concert pianist, studying the piano first at the Royal Academy of Music and then in Dresden, it was as a conductor that Charles Proctor was to become well known. Among some 40 of the productions with which he was involved at the Royal Albert Hall, he included 14 opera performances of Gounod's *Faust*, with a cast of 1,000. He also prepared and conducted a dramatic presentation of Elgar's *The Kingdom*. Proctor was later appointed to the staff of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, for the international season, given under the direction of Sir Thomas Beecham.

At the request of Sir Henry Wood, Proctor went on to found the Alexandra Choir in 1940. This choir was associated with many leading postwar conductors and played a considerable role in music in London for nearly 40 years. Proctor retired as its conductor only in 1978.

Sir Malcolm Sargent appointed Proctor as his chorus master for the Royal Choral Society and, when ill-health kept Sargent from the concert platform, Proctor took over his baton. He conducted some 300 concerts at the major London concert halls and in cathedrals and churches throughout the country.

For 25 years Proctor also taught at Trinity College of Music and, as conductor of the college choral concerts, he will be remembered particularly for his many inspired performances with the college choir, most of them at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (the musicians' church) in Holborn. He was also a Fellow of Trinity College of Music.

During the Second World War Proctor had served in the War Department constabulary and it was at this time that he had been appointed organist and choirmaster of St Jude-on-the-Hill in Hampstead Garden Suburb, north London, a position which he was to occupy for 30 years. In 1980 Proctor was appointed OBE for his services to music. He was a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Organists (of which he was for some time a council member).

Proctor was a prolific composer as well as an author of books on music. He was also an enthusiastic painter. His house in Winchelsea to which he retired was hung with his work. During his retirement he particularly enjoyed his appointment as organist and choirmaster of the Rye Parish Church in Sussex where he remained for some 20 years until 1992. And even after this date he remained in demand for relief duties, playing for the last time only a few days before his death.

Charles Proctor married his wife Rosemary, the daughter of the then vicar of St Jude's, in 1945. They had just celebrated their golden wedding anniversary before her sudden death in 1995. They had no children.

Latest wills

William John Richard **Twose**, of Droitwich, Hereford and Worcester, left £1,426,773 net.

Gerald Samuel **Roberts**, of Penrith, Cumbria, left £1,110,113 net.

He left £1,000 to the Principal, Fellows and Scholars of Jesus College and to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund; £500 each to the Parish of Watermillock, the Parish of Matterdale and to the trustees of Watermillock Parish Hall.

Doreen Mary **Day**, of Nether Whitacre, Coleshill, Birmingham, left £1,204,245 net.

She left £250 to Nether Whitacre Church; £200 to the RNLI; £100 to Dr Barnardo's and to the RSPCA.

Margaret Elizabeth **Itter**, of Burnham, Slough, Berkshire, left £1,065,765 net.

She left bequests to the Find Trust, Bliss Trust, Hoiz Foundation, Bax Trust, KVW Trust, Delius Trust, Bridge Trust, Rutland Broughton Trust, Ireland Trust, British Music Information Centre and British Music Society.

Walter Arthur **Harris**, of Whitegate, nr Northwich, Cheshire, left estate valued at £523,205 net.

Oswald **Davies**, of Lymm, Cheshire, left estate valued at £510,006 net.

John Clifford **Bower**, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, left estate valued at £566,325 net.

John Freeman **Pashley**, of Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, left estate valued at £539,308 net.

Winifred Emmeline **Rodgers**, of Handsworth Road, Birmingham, left estate valued at £526,410.

She left £500 to St Mary's Parish Church, Handsworth.

Frances Muriel **Halliwell**, of Corringham, North Humberside, left estate valued at £996,938 net.

Barbara Kate **Keasley**, of Dorking, Surrey, left estate valued at £509,699 net.

George Donald **Pickering**, of Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, left estate valued at £366,426.

Foster Trenchard **Cox**, of Godalming, Surrey, left estate valued at £723,996 net.

Marguerite **Megaw**, of Piddinghoe, Newhaven, East Sussex, left estate valued at £750,694 net.

She left £1,000 to Church of St John Piddinghoe; £200 to the veterinary surgeons, John Teakle and Partners; with the residuary estate equally divided between RSPCA, PDSA, RSPB, World Wildlife Fund, Guide Dogs for the Blind, and the Church of St John Piddinghoe.

Richard Noel John **Bedford**, of Milford on Sea, Hampshire, left estate valued at £943,697 net.

He left £5,000 to Oakhaven Hospice Trust, Lymington, Hampshire; £2,500 each to Worcestershire Yeomanry Old Comrades Association, Army Benevolent Fund, All Saints Church, Milford on Sea, Lymington, and Lymington Hospital League of Friends. Residuary estate to be divided between Wellington College, Berkshire and Brasenose College, Oxford.

Doris Mildred **Pilkington**, of Kingsmead, Seaford, East Sussex, left estate valued at £540,263 net.

Mary Elizabeth Grant **Thomson**, of Garth, Topsham, Exeter, left estate valued at £765,219 net.

Rachel Eva **Lithgow**, of Broadwindsor, Beaminster, Dorset, left estate valued at £628,479 net.

Robert William Thomas **Clatworthy**, of Winsford, Minehead, Somerset, left estate valued at £818,340 net.

Winifred Annie Mary **Chalke**, of Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £841,069 net.

Frederick Horace **Trinder**, of Littlemore, Oxford, left £3,069,535 net.

ON THIS DAY

December 24, 1885

In the late 19th century the annual death toll from pit accidents was more than 1,000.

TERRIBLE COLLIERY ACCIDENT.

CARDIFF, DEC. 23.

An alarming colliery explosion took place to-day at the Mardy Colliery of Locket's Steam Coal Company, Limited, situated near Ferndale, and has resulted in a supposed loss of 300 lives . . .

The work of the mine proceeded in the ordinary way till a quarter to 3 o'clock, when a terrific report, accompanied by a huge volume of flame belching forth from the down-cast shaft (through which the men had descended to their work), proclaimed to the workmen on the surface and indeed to the whole village of Mardy, that there had occurred one of those terrible calamities which are the dread of mining communities. Mardy is purely a colliery village and most of the male inhabitants earn their bread in Locket's colliery. The houses almost border on the colliery, and therefore the explosion was distinctly heard by the wives and sisters of those who were hewing coal in the mine. It being Christmas time, many of the female inhabitants were away from home busy making their purchases in preparation for the season, but still there were a large number of women by their firesides, waiting for the men, who would return in the ordinary course at 5 o'clock. Among these the alarm was something terrible to contemplate as, hurrying on bonnets and shawls, they rushed down to the mouth of the pit in excited groups. They knew what the report and the lurid flash of flame portended, and their anxiety to learn the worst was pitiable to see. Immediately after the explosion, Mr. William Thomas, consulting engineer of the company, organized a gang to repair the down shaft with the object of descending into the workings. The cage was lowered with an exploring party, but on nearing the bottom they met with a very formidable and, as it proved, insurmountable obstacle. This was a great pile of *debris* in their way; indeed, the whole of the bottom of the shaft and the companion cage were wrecked, and placed an impassable barrier in the way either of ingress or egress. Certain it was that if that were the only way of escape those miners who might have survived were doomed to a living entombment, for a time at any rate. The guide ropes, too, were broken, and presented nothing but twisted and broken ends. Entrance by this means thus being rendered impossible, the exploring party turned their attention to the upcast shaft. They found it intact, and a descent was at once begun, the time being now about 5 o'clock. Upon arriving at the bottom they found large throngs of eager and excited miners, who were ignorant of the fate of their comrades. The exploring party at once proceeded to the task of getting these men up; and 900 men were safely rescued in about three hours.

This, however, still left more than 200 unaccounted for in the workings. The party again proceeded to descend, and commenced the search for the missing men. After some little time they came upon the first sign of them. Upon penetrating along the passage a sad spectacle met their gaze. They saw there nearly 100 dead bodies lying upon the ground in most piteous attitudes . . .

هكذا من الأصل

Brampton United make their capital out of Dublin

THE TIMES ITF INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SKY SPORTS interactive

WHEN PICKING Brampton United, Mr D Churcher must have been looking for some versatility from his selections. However, even he cannot have expected one of his strikers, Dion Dublin, of Coventry City, to be drafted in as a central defender.

Still, he is probably not arguing as Coventry beat both Newcastle United and Leicester City to record their first victories in the FA Carling Premiership since September, and Dublin's two goals against Leicester helped to make Brampton United the winner of the £250 weekly prize in *The Times* Interactive Team Football game.

Mr Churcher's team is:

Goalkeeper
N Southall (Everton)

Full backs
A Hinchcliffe (Everton)
D Irwin (Man United)

Central defenders
G Hunter (Hibernian)
S Vickers (Middlesbrough)

Midfield players
P McGinlay (Hibernian)
L Bowyer (Leeds)
R Blinker (Sheff Wed)
J Magilton (Southampton)

Strikers
D Dublin (Coventry)
E Cantona (Man United)

Manager
R Atkinson (Coventry)

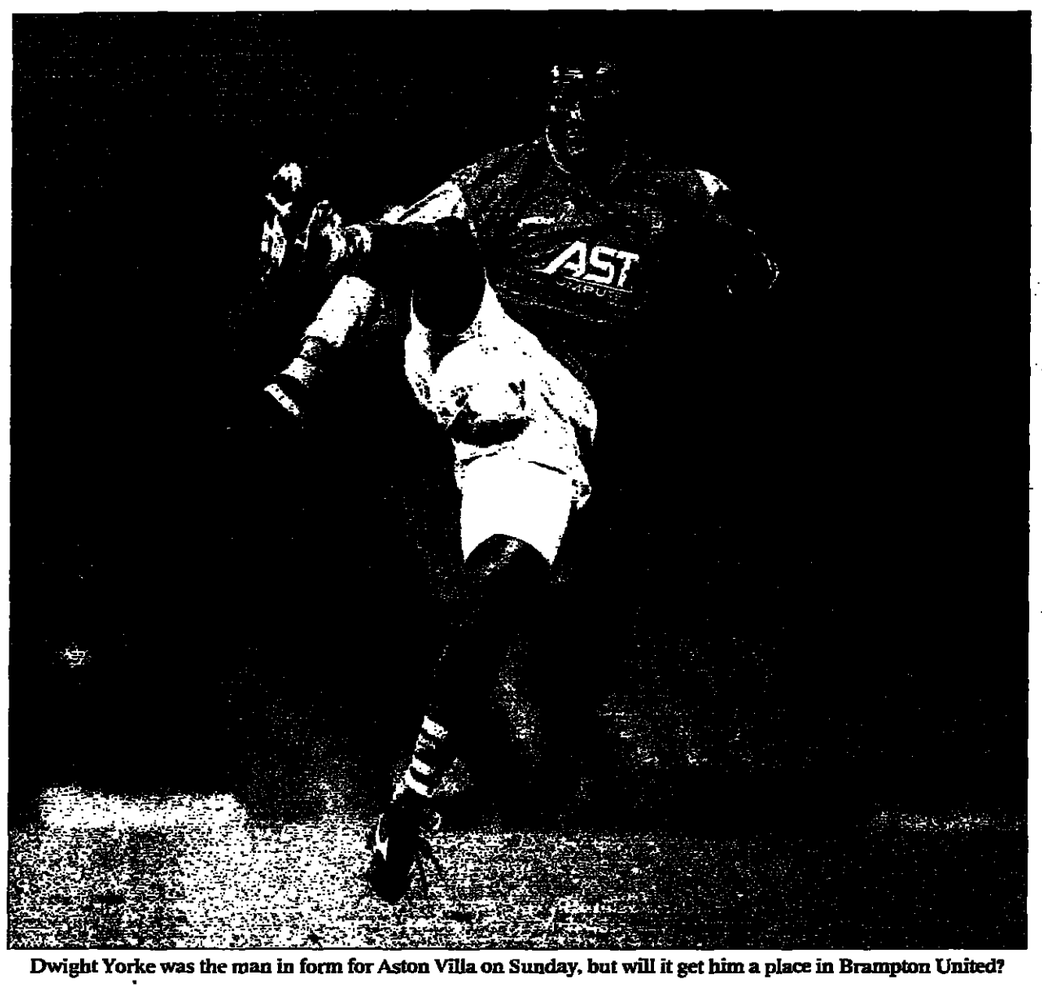
If your team could be doing better, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. You can use the ITF transfer system which allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the **0891 866 968** line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call **0044 990 200 668**.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

☐ ***All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.***



Dwight Yorke was the man in form for Aston Villa on Sunday, but will it get him a place in Brampton United?

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

IN		
60702	G Strachan	Coventry £1 00m
60402	T Parkes	Blackburn £3.00m
OUT		
60701 ..	R Atkinson	Coventry £1.50m
62201	F Clark	Nottingham Forest £2 50m
41107	V Samways	Everton £0 50m

LOANED PLAYERS

T Wright (Nottingham Forest to Reading, one week); R van der Laan (Derby to Wolverhampton, two weeks); R Ferdinand (West Ham to Bournemouth, two weeks); T Cooke (Manchester United to Birmingham, one week); P Tisdale (Southampton to Huddersfield, one week); I Selley (Arsenal to Southend, two weeks), P Simpson (Derby to Sheffield United, two weeks); M Jackson (Everton to Birmingham, two weeks), M Bright (Sheffield Wednesday to Millwall, three weeks), John Sheridan (Sheffield Wednesday to Bolton, four weeks); Kevin Scott (Tottenham Hotspur to Charlton, four weeks)

Loan periods subject to fluctuation

EXCLUSIVE ITF COMPETITION

80 FOOTBALL GAMES TO BE WON

Waddingtons

The Times Interactive Team Football and Waddingtons are giving ITF players a chance to win one of 40 *Subbuteos* or *The Manager* games. The FA Premier League edition of *Subbuteo* includes: * two teams, Mitre balls, referee and linesmen, green strips, line flags, goals, scoreboard, pitch cloth and a miniature silver and gold replica trophy.

The Manager, created by former England soccer coach Terry Venables, is a football business game which casts players as managers of Premiership football clubs. This is a fun boardgame for two to six players with questions on entertainment, general knowledge and sport suitable for all the family.

HOW TO ENTER

To enter (only players of *The Times* ITF game) send your name, your ITF team name, ITF pin number and the answer to the question below, on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope to: *The Times*/Waddington Comp, 16 Whitefriars St, London EC3B 2NG. Closing date: Friday, January 31, 1997. Winners will be drawn at random. Normal TNL rules apply.

Of which country is Terry Venables now the coach?

CHANGING TIMES

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

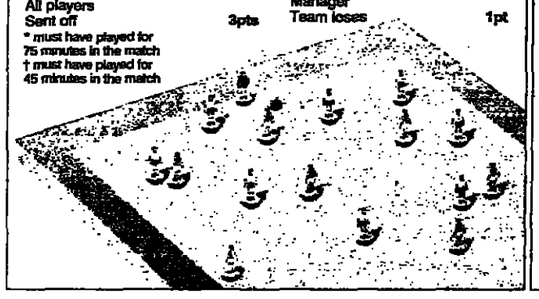
POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper		**Striker**	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	**All players**	
Saves penalty	1pt	Appearance†	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Scores hat-trick	6pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	**Manager**	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		**Manager**	
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selectors PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £35 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

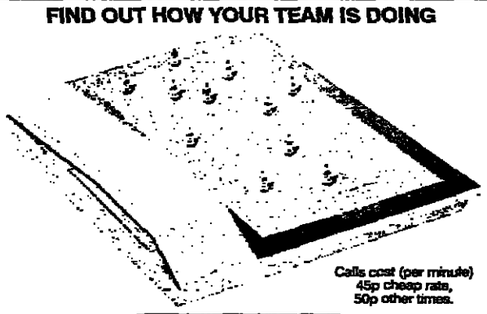
Calls will be charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out ..... Player code ☐☐☐☐☐
Club .....
Player in .....
Club ..... ☐☐☐☐☐

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(player's name)	Pts
1	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	366
2	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	365
3	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	364
4	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	348
5=	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	346
5=	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	346
7	Tulips Tops	(D Tulip)	342
8	Raj Is Back To Kill	(Mr R Gohil)	336
9	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	335
10=	Gangsters	(A Lone)	334
10=	Brain's Team	(Mr B Howes)	334
10=	Daggers	(V Cox)	334
13	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	333
14	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	328
15	Where's Ray Gone?	(Patrick Fromm)	327
16	Inter The Stand	(Mr M Ward)	326
17	Jones Boys Three	(Mr M Jones)	325
18=	Inter The Pub	(Mr M Ward)	323
18=	Purple Rain	(Mr B Gohil)	323
18=	Noah's Ark	(G P Dolan)	323
21	Bown's Boys X I	(Mr P Bown)	322
22=	Brainbows United	(Mr G Weiss)	321
22=	Nobby	(J Brown)	321
24	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	320
25=	Riggy's Roarers	(Mr A Rigg)	319
25=	Edmo Utd	(Mr D Edmondson)	319
27=	Storm	(Mr P Mills)	318
27=	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	318
29=	Jones Boys One	(ML Jones)	315
29=	Raj Is Back To Kill	(Mr R Gohil)	315
29=	Nobby J	(J Brown)	315
29=	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	315
33	Jones Boys 8	(Mr M Jones)	314
34=	J S August Monthly 1	(Mr J Swirles)	313
34=	Team A	(Mr A Lone)	313
34=	Beeston Celtic	(Barry Mcgivern)	313
34=	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	313
38=	Hull Red Devils	(G Foster)	312
38=	Ab 4	(A Boyland)	312
40=	Nonchalont A F C 3	(Mr RJ Ward)	311
40=	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	311
42=	Scholes For Goals	(K Booth)	310
42=	Claremont Loyal	(Mr B Fox)	310
42=	The Red Devils	(Mr K Booth)	310
45=	Team C	(A Lone)	309
45=	J S August Monthly 2	(Mr J Swirles)	309
45=	N S T Monkstone	(Mr J Staszkiewicz)	309
48=	Inter The Wallet	(Mr M Ward)	308
48=	Raj Is Back To Kill	(Mr R Gohil)	308
48=	P J Thistle	(Richard Newbould)	308
48=	Bobs Boys 2	(R Calder)	308
48=	Skyforest	(A Burton)	308
53	Mars FC	(M Baber)	307
54=	Bubwith Utd 5	(Mr M Larcombe)	306
54=	Concrete Banana	(S Mingle)	306
54=	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	306
54=	Garforth Seahawks	(I Doughty)	306
58=	Its About Revenge C	(Mr R Gohil)	305
58=	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	305
60=	1st Eleft	(K J Burns)	304
60=	Sky Rockets	(K Farhall)	304
60=	A2	(K Farhall)	304
60=	Obby 22	(J Brown)	304
64=	Northwood XI	(Mr S Mullaney)	303
64=	Bonky Boys	(R Crook)	303
64=	Icarus	(Mrs B Wells)	303
64=	Crooky Boys	(Mr R Crook)	303
64=	Raj Is Back To Kill	(Mr R Gohil)	303
64=	ABC	(M Baber)	303
64=	Clive From Down Unde	(K James)	303

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Calls cost (per minute) 45p cheap rate, 50p other times.

Call the ITF checkline on **0891 884 643**
Outside UK: 44 990 100 343

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(player's name)	Pts
64=	Kingsbury Tn 1	(D F King)	303
72=	Layton's Lions 7	(Mr R Layton)	302
72=	Orvieto Classico	(DR J Bradshaw)	302
74	Inter The Bin	(Mr M Ward)	301
75=	Xpat Missiles	(Martin Jackson)	300
75=	The Dansters	(C C Vevers)	300
77=	Aldecurcic Villa	(M Jukes)	299
77=	Fowney City	(Mr P Fownes)	299
77=	Ebbeys 1st XI	(Mr S Baldrick)	299
77=	Totted Two	(Mr E Kisby)	299
77=	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	299
82=	Joking	(Mr P Fallen)	298
82=	Marks Magicians II	(Mr M Kingston)	298
82=	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	298
85=	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	297
85=	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	297
85=	JJB Sports	(A Bates)	297
88=	12 Angry Men	(Daryl Cook)	296
88=	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)	296
90=	Jasons Boys Four	(Mr J Gerring)	295
90=	Def Con 3	(M Peck)	295
90=	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	295
93=	China Castle	(Mr B Gohil)	294
93=	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	294
93=	Turners Earners 6	(P Turner)	294
93=	Jones Boys Sky	(Mika Jones)	294
97=	Rother Ramblers	(M Evershed)	293
97=	We Can't Win	(Mr G Knapper)	293
97=	Bubwith Utd 3	(Mr M Larcombe)	293
97=	Hairy May	(Nick Pearson)	293
97=	A	(Martin Corless)	293
97=	Lesleys Legmen	(L Michaelis)	293
97=	Thing Fish	(I Doughty)	293
104=	Red Star Storm	(P Mills)	292
104=	D J S 2	(Mr D Senton)	292
104=	Pin Ups Two	(Mr P Tusler)	292
104=	Le Boeufesters	(Mr J Roebuck)	292
104=	Aldo Is Great	(Mr J Holliday)	292
104=	Bow Utd	(K J Burns)	292
104=	Airstir	(Ityfe)	292
111=	F C Pants	(J Mullock)	291
111=	Nomads	(Mr N Broom)	291
111=	Cannons Hotshots	(Mr D Cannon)	291
111=	Raj Is Back To Kill	(Mr J Gohil)	291
111=	C U O K	(Mr G Weiss)	291
116=	Trouble Shooters	(R Pritt)	290
116=	Sporty Big Bone	(J Staszkiewicz)	290
116=	U Vont Us	(Mr T Staszkiewicz)	290
116=	Uni Boys Utd 1	(Mr B Gardiner)	290
116=	Thorn Foolery FC	(Mr M Horan)	290
116=	Langaller Lads	(Mr N Finch)	290
116=	Staffs	(I Longstaff)	290
116=	The Tomsters	(C C Vevers)	290
124=	Where's Amos?	(L J Saunders)	289
124=	T 35	(Mr T Basaran)	289
124=	Krystonia 2	(Mr S Roberts)	289
124=	Rainbow Worriers	(Mr G Weiss)	289
124=	Pacific All Star	(Thomas Leonard)	289
124=	Turners Earners 3	(P Turner)	289
124=	Midfield Magic	(Jon Pregon)	289
131=	Bell Watchers	(Mr J Murray)	288
131=	Flying Foreigners	(Mr D Thomas)	288
131=	Inter The Unknown	(Peter Barnett)	288
131=	Growlers United	(Mark Johnston)	288
131=	AFC	(M Baber)	288
131=	Fortune Hunters	(K Farhall)	288
131=	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	288
138=	Inter The Net	(Mr M Ward)	287
138=	Clover Vale	(Mr N Ensingh)	287
138=	Soccer Superstars	(Mr J McCallion)	287
138=	Fordey's Firsts	(Chris Forde)	287
138=	Club18-30 Tossa	(Andy Robson)	287
143=	Jabberwocky	(PA Amoss)	286
143=	Gestalt	(Richard Rowe)	286
145=	Athletico Storm	(P Mills)	285
145=	Tagues 1st XI	(Mr C Tague)	285
145=	4 4 2	(K Browne)	285
145=	Dear Old Things	(Mr J Saunders)	285
145=	Daves Braves	(Mr D Lightowler)	285
145=	Fordey's Seconds	(Chris Forde)	285
145=	Bobs Boys 1	(R Calder)	285
145=	I	(Martin Corless)	285
153=	Murrays Mates	(Mr D Anderson)	284
153=	Shrew Moles	(H Brasher)	284
153=	Franck FC	(Mr N Foord)	284
153=	Misfits	(R Lockyer)	284
153=	Scottish Points	(Jon Pregon)	284
158=	Beyond Fault	(Mr P Foster)	283
158=	The Great Dane	(Mr K Booth)	283
158=	1970 Jr FC	(J Ross)	283
158=	Janes Giants	(Ms J Longton)	283
158=	Das Boot	(D A Sutton)	283
158=	Animals	(L Clark)	283
164=	Davslo Unt 1	(Mr D Sloan)	282
164=	Dour Rangers 3	(I Clayton)	282
164=	Jacks Nightmare	(N J Lane)	282
164=	Abduls Revenge	(Mr D Ritchie)	282
164=	Robzteam 2	(R Preston)	282
164=	Bobs Boys 4	(R Calder)	282
164=	Turners Earners 4	(P Turner)	282
164=	Bravehearts FC	(D Cunningham)	282
172=	Welland United	(T Shelley)	281
172=	T 20	(T Basaran)	281
172=	Irwins Best	(Mr L Sampson)	281
172=	Grahams Gringos	(GF Passey)	281
172=	Jennys Skates	(Mr D S Mills)	281
172=	The Three Amigos	(Paul Farrand)	281
172	Dynamo Hibs	(Scott Miller)	281
172=	Havok	(Peter Williamson)	281
172=	Lloydy's Barge	(David Goodwin)	281
172=	Turners Earners 1	(P Turner)	281
172=	Turners Earners 5	(P Turner)	281
172=	Ne	(Hugh Somerville)	281
172=	Hunters Mob	(C Hunter)	281
185=	Now We Are Two	(Mr J McKeown)	280
185=	Fendon United	(Mr E Cowan)	280
185=	Shack Attack	(Mr R Shackleton)	280
185=	Raj Is Back To Kill	(Mr R Gohil)	280
185=	Lynne's Lions	(Lynne Hiorns)	280
185=	Percys Progress	(M Persich)	280
191=	Don 3	(Mr D Shuter)	279
191=	Cellums Conquerors	(M Convey)	279
191=	Pan's People 2	(Mr P Gregoriou)	279
191=	Always Portugal 1	(V Guimaraes)	279
191=	Farr Academicals	(Alistair Kirkwood)	279
191=	Sid In A Carry On	(K James)	279
191=	The Dummies 1	(D Shiels)	279
198=	Born Losers	(Mr P Farkins)	278
198=	Triple Top Tan	(Mr P Bailey)	278
198=	Perrys 5	(Mr B Beer)	278
198=	Top Banana	(Martin Bottomley)	278
198=	Football Junkies	(Jmelling)	278
198=	John Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	278
198=	Bothered FC	(David Lee)	278
205=	Spices 024	(Mr J Doody)	277
205=	P J B Rovers	(Mr PJ Butler)	277
205=	Good Times Boys	(R Crook)	277
205=	No Help From Dad FC	(Mr A Du Gay)	277
205=	Too Farr	(Mary Ann Kennedy)	277
205=	Warped XI	(David Mclean)	277
211=	Daves First XI	(D Quibell)	276
211=	Athletes Foot	(Mr K Simpson)	276
211=	Roisins Raiders	(Mr P M Handley)	276
211=	Ians B Team	(I W Donaldson)	276
211=	Arif's Allstars	(A Bangi)	276
211=	Brinks Matt XI	(L MacAlum)	276
211=	The Fubars	(N Scott)	276
211=	Hade Yuk Split	(Mr I Roberts)	276
211=	Kinky Imports	(Scott Fraser)	276
211=	I Hate Alan Hansen	(V Cox)	276
211=	Skyline Sizzlers	(T Gordon)	276
211=	March Pass	(M Mcgovern)	276
211=	Hari Kari XI	(H Kerr)	276
211=	SJG Hurricanes	(E Gonzales)	276
211=	Toomuchi Utd	(A Silva)	276
226=	Turners Tigers	(Mr C Turner)	275
226=	No Midfield	(JB Portwood)	275
226=	Pamela Anderson	(Mr P Hands)	275
228=	——	——	275
226=	Wronco Loves Sport	(J Eaton)	275
226=	Henry's Crowd	(Mr G Hodgson)	275
226=	Cookies Gunners	(Mr S Cook)	275
228=	Caroline B	(A Luckhurst)	275
226=	Mahal United	(M S Mahal)	275
226=	Rams 2 Slaughter	(J Staszkiewicz)	275
226=	Le Boeuf And 2 Veg	(Mr M Sawley)	275
226=	Tiree Tabletoppers	(Mary Ann Kennedy)	275
226=	Red Star Belgravia	(Richard Keenan)	275
226=	Powerage	(I Doughty)	275
240=	Geoff's Geezers II	(Mr GW Jordan)	274
240=	Choim Chix 69	(Mr Scarlet)	274
240=	Real Ale Ripon	(C Blackshaw)	274
240=	Bladerunners	(Mr P Walters)	274
240=	The Loggers	(Mr C Wright)	274
240=	The Right Team	(Ms S Wright)	274
240=	Toto Calcio	(Mr A Daye)	274
240=	Scotty's Puppeys I I	(Mr EG Ryan)	274
240=	——	(Mr Z Whinnett)	274
240=	Paradox Eagles	(Steve Abbott)	274
240=	Equinox Eagles	(Steve Abbott)	274

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Beesley, the Leeds United defender, tackles Michael Branch, of Everton. Leeds have had five successive clean sheets.

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	-5	-3
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+27
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	-3	-17
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	+5	+6
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+19
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-19
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	-1
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0	-1
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	+5	+5
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-20
10603	F Grodas	Chelsea	3.00	-1	-6
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	+4	-15
10702	J Filan	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	0
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	-6	-16
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	-10
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	-2	-32
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	+10	+1
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	+1
11201	G Rousset	Hearts	2.00	-7	-17
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	+5	-2
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	-1	-21
11501	M Beeney	Leeds United	1.50	0	0
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+5	+13
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0	-6
11603	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	-3	-9
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-3	+8
11702	T Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+4	-12
11802	R Van Der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	+5
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-14
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-23
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0	-19
12101	S Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00	0	-3
12102	P Srnicek	Newcastle United	3.00	-3	+2
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-8	-31
12202	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
12203	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	-5	-14
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	-4	+13
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-2	+3
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	-1	-17
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2
12603	C Woods	Southampton	1.50	0	-19
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	-11	-19
11803	T Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	-1	+15
12802	E Baardsen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.00	-5	-21
12902	S Mautone	West Ham United	0.50	0	+5
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	-9	+3
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
20101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+11
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+20
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+16
20203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.00	-1	+3
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+28
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+32
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0
20304	P King	Aston Villa	0.25	0	0
20305	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	+1	+25
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-3
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+1
20403	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-4
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2
20501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	0	+7
20502	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.00	+4	+2
20601	D Petrescu	Chelsea	3.00	-1	+4
20602	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.00	0	-2
20603	T Phelan	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
20604	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	0	+1
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-7
20703	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	-5
20704	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	+4
20705	R Genaux	Coventry City	1.50	0	-2
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	-2	+1
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	-1	+1
20804	P Parker	Derby County	1.00	0	+4
20901	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0	+15
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	0	+6
20903	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0	+7
21001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	-1	-7
21002	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	-1	-10
21101	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0	0
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	+5	+14
21103	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	+8	+16
21104	M Jackson	Everton	1.00	0	0
21201	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0	0
21202	N Pointon	Hearts	1.00	-3	-5
21301	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0	+2
21302	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	+4	+16
21402	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	0	-10
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+3	+20
21502	T Dorigo	Leeds United	2.50	0	-1
21503	P Beesley	Leeds United	0.50	+4	+17
21504	G Halle	Leeds United	1.00	+3	+3
21601	M Whitlow	Leicester City	0.50	0	+6
21602	S Grayson	Leicester City	0.50	-1	+7
21603	N Lewis	Leicester City	0.50	0	-2
21604	F Rolling	Leicester City	0.25	0	0
21701	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
21702	S Harkness	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
21703	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	0.50	-1	+24
21801	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	+4	+16
21802	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	+4	+13
21803	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	+4	+2
21901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	0	-11
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-5
21905	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	0	0
22002	S McMillan	Motherwell	0.50	-2	+3
22101	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	-1
22102	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	+13
22103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	+2
22104	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
22201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0	+2
22202	D Lyttle	Nottingham Forest	2.00	-4	-8
22203	A Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	+3	+7
22204	N Jerkan	Nottingham Forest	2.00	-1	0
22301	P Bonar	Raith Rovers	0.75	0	-8
22302	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-5
22401	D Robertson	Rangers	2.50	+5	+11
22402	J Brown	Rangers	2.00	0	0
22501	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+3	+15
22502	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+18
22503	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	0
22504	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+5
22505	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
22601	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	0	-5
22602	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	-1	-7
22603	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	0
22701	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	-4	+9
22702	M Scott	Sunderland	0.50	0	+4
22703	G Hall	Sunderland	0.25	-4	-1
22801	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
22802	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+23
22803	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	+12
22804	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
22805	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	+4
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	4.00	-2	+10
22902	T Breacker	West Ham United	1.00	0	+4
22903	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	-3	0
22904	M Bowen	West Ham United	1.00	-2	0
22905	K Brown	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+9
23002	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	-5	+3
23003	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	-2	+14
23004	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
23006	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	-3	+18

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
30101	B Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00	-2	+10
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.00	0	+16
30202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+18
30203	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+19
30204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.00	-1	+8
30205	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+16
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+37
30304	C Tiler	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+9
30305	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	+4	+17
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+1
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+2
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	+4	+14
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0	+2
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	+4	+13
30504	B O'Neil	Celtic	3.00	+4	+5
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	-1	-9
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	0	+13
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	-2
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0	+5
30606	E Johnsen	Chelsea	1.50	0	+10
30701	L Daish	Coventry City	2.00	+4	+4
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	+4	+3
30801	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50	-4	-8
30802	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0	0
30303	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0	+1
30803	J Laursen	Derby County	1.00	-1	+5
30804	M Carbon	Derby County	0.50	0	-1
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	0	+14
31001	M Millar	Dunfermline	0.75	+1	+2
31002	I Den Bieman	Dunfermline	0.75	-2	-12
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+3	+13
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	+8	+10
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	0	+9
31201	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	0	+8
31202	P Ritchie	Hearts	1.00	-4	+12
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	-4
30902	B Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	+4	+13
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	+4	+11
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	+1	-1
31402	R Montgomerie	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	-1
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	+4	+19
31502	R Jobson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	0	+12
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0	+6
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	0	+9
31603	P Kamaark	Leicester City	0.50	-1	-1
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	-1	+6
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	-1	+12
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0	+15
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	-1	+10
31705	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	0	+14
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	+1	+2
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	+3	+13
31803	R Johnsen	Manchester United	2.50	0	+10
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-9
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-7
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-13
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	-2	-2
32002	M Van Der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	-3	+8
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	-1	+10
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	+13
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-3	-3
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+2
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-3
32302	S Dennis	Raith Rovers	1.00	0	-19
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	-1	+27
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0	0
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	+17
32404	G Petric	Rangers	2.50	-1	+13
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+6
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+17
32503	B Linighan	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	-14
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	0	-2
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	-1	-4
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	0	-11
32605	U Van Gobbel	Southampton	1.50	0	-17
32701	A Melville	Sunderland	1.00	-4	+14
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	-4	+10
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	-4	+10
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+23
31702	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	0
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+19
32803	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
32805	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
32806	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-3
32901	S Bilic	West Ham United	2.50	-2	+3
32902	M Rieper	West Ham United	2.50	-2	+3
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	0	-3
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0	0
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	-4	+4
33005	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	-1	+11
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0

MIDFIELDERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
40101	D Windass	Aberdeen	3.00	+1	+24
40102	S Glass	Aberdeen	3.00	+1	+9
40103	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.50	+1	+4
40104	I Kiriakov	Aberdeen	2.50	+1	+21
40105	T Tzvetanov	Aberdeen	0.50	+1	+18
40201	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	+1	+20
40202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	+1	+32
40203	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.00	0	+9
40204	G Helder	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
40205	I Selley	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
40208	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.00	0	+13
40209	R Garde	Arsenal	2.00	+1	+1
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	+2	+17
40302	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.50	+2	+27
40303	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	+4	+20
40304	G Farrelly	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0
40306	S Curcic	Aston Villa	3.50	-1	+13
40401	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+16
40402	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+13
40403	G Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+10
40404	B McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+4
40405	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+17
40406	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+3
40407	G Donis	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+14
40408	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+5
40409	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
40501	P McStay	Celtic	3.00	0	0
40502	A Thom	Celtic	2.50	+2	+21
40503	S Donnelly	Celtic	2.50	+2	+17
40504	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	+2	+17
40505	P Di Canio	Celtic	3.00	0	+18
40601	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	+1	+6
40602	D Wise	Chelsea	3.00	0	+17
40603	G Peacock	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
40604	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	+1	+16
40605	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	+1	+6
40607	D Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
40608	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	+1	+25
40609	J Morris	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+3	+24
41501	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	+5	+27
40702	E Jess	Coventry City	2.00	0	+11
40703	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+3	+13
40704	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	+3	+14
40705	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	+2	+12
40706	M Isaias	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
40707	W Boland	Coventry City	0.25	0	0
40708	M O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1
40801	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.00	+3	+25
40802	P Simpson	Derby County	1.50	0	+2
40803	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.50	0	+2
40804	D Powell	Derby County	1.00	+2	+17
40805	S Flynn	Derby County	0.75	+2	+10
40807	G Rowett	Derby County	0.50	+1	+16
40809	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	+3	+20
40901	G McSwegan	Dundee United	2.00	0	+15
40902	R Winters	Dundee United	1.50	+1	+25
40903	G Johnson	Dundee United	1.00	0	0
42303	J McInally	Dundee United	0.75	0	+7
40904	D Bowman	Dundee United	0.75	0	+15
40905	A Benneker	Dundee United	0.50	0	+2
41001	H French	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+20
41002	C Robertson	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+16
41003	A Smith	Dunfermline	0.75	+5	+23
41004	D Fleming	Dunfermline	0.50	+1	+13
41101	A Kanchelskis	Everton	7.00	+4	+31
41102	G Speed	Everton	4.00	+3	+39
41103	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	0	+6
41104	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	+4	+22
41105	A Limpar	Everton	1.50	0	+1
41106	T Grant	Everton	0.50	+2	+9
41107	V Samways	Everton	0.50	0	0
41202	A McManus	Hearts	1.50	0	+7
41203	S Fulton	Hearts	1.00	0	+9
41301	K McAllister	Hibernian	1.50	0	+14
41302	P McGinlay	Hibernian	1.50	+4	+19
41303	G Love	Hibernian	0.75	0	+2
41304	A Millen	Hibernian	0.50	0	+15
41305	I Cameron	Hibernian	0.75	+2	+5
41401	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	1.00	+3	+16
41402	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	1.00	+2	+10
41403	M Skilling	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	0
41404	J Lauchlan	Kilmarnock	0.50	+3	+9
41502	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	+2	+20
41503	A Gray	Leeds United	2.50	0	+1
41504	C Palmer	Leeds United	2.00	+1	+13
41505	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	0	+14
41805	L Sharpe	Leeds United	3.50	+2	+30
41506	I Harte	Leeds United	1.00	0	+14
41507	M Ford	Leeds United	0.50	0	+19
41508	A Couzens	Leeds United	0.50	0	+8
41509	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+2
41601	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+21
41602	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	0	+10
41603	S Taylor	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+15
41604	J Lawrence	Leicester City	0.25	0	0
40606	M Izzet	Leicester City	1.00	+1	+24
41701	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	+1	+29
41702	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	+1	+21
41703	J Redknapp	Liverpool	4.00	0	+6
41704	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+1	+28
41705	M Thomas	Liverpool	2.50	+1	+27
41706	M Kennedy	Liverpool	1.00	0	0
41707	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	0	+18
41801	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00	+2	+17
41802	R Keane	Manchester United	4.50	0	+5
41803	D Beckham	Manchester United	4.00	0	+29
41804	N Butt	Manchester United	3.50	+5	+21
41806	B McClair	Manchester United	1.50	+1	+5
41807	T Cooke	Manchester United	1.00	0	0
41808	B Thornley	Manchester United	1.00	0	+1
41809	S Davies	Manchester United	0.50	0	0
41810	J Cruyff	Manchester United	2.50	0	+15
41811	K Poborsky	Manchester United	4.00	0	+14
41901	Emerson	Middlesbrough	3.50	0	+14
41902	Juninho	Middlesbrough	3.50	0	+22
41903	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+8
41905	A Moore	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+1
41906	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+16
41908	C Liddle	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+3
41909	B Robson	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	0
41910	P Stamp	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+11
42001	C McCart	Motherwell	2.00	0	+12
42002	J Philliben	Motherwell	1.00	0	+8
42003	J Dolan	Motherwell	1.00	+1	+8
42004	J Hendry	Motherwell	0.75	0	+2
42101	D Ginola	Newcastle United	5.50	+1	+17
42102	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.50	0	+21
42103	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.50	+1	+13
42104	D Batty	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+14
42105	L Clark	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+3
42201	I Woan	Nottingham Forest	4.50	+2	+15
42202	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0	+2
42203	S Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+4
42204	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+9
42205	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	1.00	+1	+11
42301	T Rougier	Raith Rovers	2.00	+1	+18
42302	D Lennon	Raith Rovers	1.00	0	+20
42304	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	+1	+19
42401	P Gascoigne	Rangers	7.00	+3	+44
42402	B Laudrup	Rangers	5.00	+4	+35
42403	S McCall	Rangers	2.00	0	+9
42404	T Steven	Rangers	1.50	+2	+3
42405	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00	+3	+21
42501	R Blinker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+13
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2	+16
42503	J Sheridan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	0
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+1	+15
42506	M Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
42507	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
42508	S Oakes	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+6
42509	W Collins	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	+7
42510	O Trustfull	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2	+14
42511	B Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+4	+16
42601	J Magilton	Southampton	2.50	+3	+19
42604	B Venison	Southampton	1.00	0	0
42606	D Hughes	Southampton	0.50	0	0
42906	R Slater	Southampton	1.00	0	+8
42607	M Oakley	Southampton	0.50	+3	+19
42608	P Tisdale	Southampton	0.50	0	0
42609	M Robinson	Southampton	0.25	0	0
42610	G Potter	Southampton	0.50	0	+2
42611	E Berkovic	Southampton	1.00	+1	+15
42701	M Gray	Sunderland	2.50	+1	+19
42702	S Agnew	Sunderland	1.50	0	+10
42703	A Rae	Sunderland	1.50	+1	+7
42704	P Bracewell	Sunderland	0.75	+1	+21
42705	M Smith	Sunderland	1.00	0	+3
42801	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	5.50	0	+9
42802	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+1	+20
42803	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+1	+23
42804	J Dozzell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+2
42805	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+1	+19
42806	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+1
42809	A Nielsen	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+3	+23
42902	I Bishop	West Ham United	2.00	+1	+16
42903	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+1	+25
42904	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.50	0	+7
42905	J Moncur	West Ham United	1.50	+1	+13
42907	S Lazarides	West Ham United	0.25	0	+9
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00	+1	+36
43002	O Leonhardsen	Wimbledon	2.50	+1	+22
43003	M Gayle	Wimbledon	2.00	+1	+34
43004	V Jones	Wimbledon	1.50	+1	+19
43005	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.50	+1	+28
43006	S Castledine	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0
43007	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
50101	S Booth	Aberdeen	4.50	0	+2
50102	D Shearer	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+4
50103	B Dodds	Aberdeen	5.00	+1	+17
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.00	0	+41
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.00	+1	+17
50203	J Hartson	Arsenal	3.50	0	+10
50205	C Kiwomya	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	7.50	+5	+42
50302	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	5.00	+5	+14
50303	T Johnson	Aston Villa	4.00	0	+12
50304	J Joachim	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+7
50402	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+16
50404	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+23
50405	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+3
50406	N Gudmundsson	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	0
50501	P Van Hooydonk	Celtic	7.00	0	+23
50502	J Cadete	Celtic	6.00	+1	+15
50601	G Vialli	Chelsea	5.00	0	+29
50602	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	+5	+17
50605	M Stein	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
50606	G Zola	Chelsea	5.00	+3	+10
50701	N Whelan	Coventry City	6.00	+2	+19
50702	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	+5	+26
50703	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	3.00	0	+3
52105	D Huckerby	Coventry City	0.50	+4	+6
50801	D Sturridge	Derby County	3.00	+1	+16
50802	M Gabbiadini	Derby County	2.00	0	+5
50803	A Ward	Derby County	2.00	+2	+15
50804	R Willems	Derby County	1.00	0	+7
50902	O Coyle	Dundee United	2.00	0	+4
51001	A Moore	Dunfermline	2.00	0	+7
51002	S Petrie	Dunfermline	2.00	0	+11
51101	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	+2	+14
51901	N Barmby	Everton	4.00	+4	+23
51102	G Stuart	Everton	3.00	+1	+21
51104	P Rideout	Everton	2.00	0	+1
51105	M Branch	Everton	1.50	0	+3
51201	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50	+3	+20
51202	C Cameron	Hearts	3.50	+1	+28
51203	D Beckford	Hearts	0.50	0	+4
51301	K Wright	Hibernian	3.00	0	+13
51302	D Jackson	Hibernian	3.00	+5	+31
51401	P Wright	Kilmarnock	3.00	+1	+27
51501	T Yeboah	Leeds United	7.00	0	0
51502	I Rush	Leeds United	3.50	+1	+15
51504	B Deane	Leeds United	2.00	+1	+12
51601	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50	+1	+22
51602	E Heskey	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+20
51603	M Robins	Leicester City	0.75	0	+1
51604	I Marshall	Leicester City	0.75	+1	+12
51701	R Fowler	Liverpool	9.00	+3	+39
51702	S Collymore	Liverpool	8.00	+5	+21
51801	E Cantona	Manchester United	8.50	+5	+24
51802	P Scholes	Manchester United	5.00	+3	+7
51803	A Cole	Manchester United	4.50	0	+1
51804	O Solskjaer	Manchester United	3.00	+6	+25
51902	J Fjortoft	Middlesbrough	2.50	0	+4
51905	F Ravanelli	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+39
51906	M Beck	Middlesbrough	2.50	0	+8
52001	T Coyne	Motherwell	2.00	+2	+20
52002	D Arnott	Motherwell	1.50	0	+17
50401	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10.0	+3	+33
52101	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.50	+1	+27
52102	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	6.50	0	+7
52103	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	+1	+20
52104	P Kitson	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+1
52201	D Saunders	Nottingham Forest	3.50	+2	+22
52202	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+1	+3
52203	P McGregor	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
52204	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	1.50	+4	+23
52205	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+7
52206	S Howe	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0	0
52207	A Silenzi	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0	+1
52301	P Duffield	Raith Rovers	2.00	+1	+16
52401	G Durie	Rangers	6.00	0	+3
52402	E Andersen	Rangers	5.00	+14	+19
52403	A McCoist	Rangers	5.00	0	+28
52404	P Van Vossen	Rangers	6.00	0	0
52501	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+6
52502	A Booth	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+2	+26
52503	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	0
52504	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2	+19
52505	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
52506	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+5
52601	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00	0	+25
52603	G Watson	Southampton	1.50	+3	+10
52605	E Ostenstad	Southampton	2.00	+1	+25
52701	P Stewart	Sunderland	1.00	0	+6
52702	C Russell	Sunderland	1.00	+1	+13
52703	D Kelly	Sunderland	1.00	+1	+9
52704	L Howey	Sunderland	0.50	0	+2
52705	M Bridges	Sunderland	0.50	0	+6
52708	N Quinn	Sunderland	3.00	0	+7
52801	T Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	8.00	0	+19
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	7.00	0	+19
52803	R Allen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	+1
52804	S Iversen	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+1	+2
52901	F Raducioiu	West Ham United	3.00	+1	+9
52902	I Dumitrescu	West Ham United	2.50	0	+3
52903	I Dowie	West Ham United	2.00	0	+13
52905	S Jones	West Ham United	1.50	0	+2
53001	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	3.00	0	+7
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	3.00	+1	+29
53003	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+3
53004	J Euell	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
53005	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+5
53006	M Harford	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0
53007	G Blissett	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
60101	R Aitken	Aberdeen	2.50	-1	+23
60202	A Wenger	Arsenal	3.50	-1	+16
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	3.50	+3	+28
60501	T Burns	Celtic	4.00	+3	+26
60601	R Gullit	Chelsea	2.50	+3	+24
60701	R Atkinson	Coventry City	1.50	+6	+8
60801	J Smith	Derby County	0.75	-2	+16
62302	T McLean	Dundee United	0.75	-1	+16
61001	B Paton	Dunfermline	0.50	+3	+17
61101	J Royle	Everton	3.00	+4	+24
61201	J Jefferies	Hearts	2.00	-1	+14
61502	G Graham	Leeds United	2.00	+1	+9
61601	M O'Neill	Leicester City	0.50	-1	+12
61701	R Evans	Liverpool	4.50	+3	+34
61801	A Ferguson	Manchester United	5.00	+4	+28
61901	B Robson	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+6
62001	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.50	-1	+9
62101	K Keegan	Newcastle United	4.50	-1	+25
62201	F Clark	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+2	+4
62303	I Munro	Raith Rovers	0.50	-1	+7
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00	+6	+39
62501	D Pleat	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2	+22
62601	G Souness	Southampton	0.50	+3	+6
62701	P Reid	Sunderland	0.50	-1	+12
62801	G Francis	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	+1	+18
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00	-1	+10
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	1.00	-1	+30

THE TIMES TODAY TUESDAY DECEMBER 24 1996

NEWS

Nurses may face public execution

■ Two British nurses arrested after the murder of an Australian colleague at a Saudi hospital were taken back to the scene of the crime by military police. If convicted, the pair could in theory be publicly beheaded, although the chance of a Westerner being executed is slight.

The two nurses have been denied contact with British diplomats and human rights organisations expressed concern over their treatment, claiming that the Saudi authorities often used torture to extract confessions ..... Page 1

'Road rage' woman bailed

■ Tracie Andrews, who is accused of murdering her fiancé in the so-called road rage case, was freed on bail to spend Christmas with her six-year-old daughter. The judge dismissed police fears that she might try to kill herself ..... Page 1

Hunt for girl

More than 70 police questioned shoppers in Chester in their search for nine-year-old Kayleigh Ward, who has been missing since Thursday ..... Page 1

Frostie lives

The Muren family of Yorkshire are confident of having a white Christmas, having kept Frostie the snowman "alive" in the freezer since last January ..... Page 1

Shattered peace

A Buddhist seeking to celebrate the winter solstice on a Welsh mountain thought he had found peace — until an RAF helicopter and rescue team decided to save his life ..... Page 1

Hostages freed

Peruvian rebels released 225 hostages from the Japanese Ambassador's residence, but kept 140 government officials and businessmen ..... Pages 1, 7

Tories on the attack

The Conservative Party launched a £7 million advertising campaign which will be dominated by personalised attacks on Tony Blair and on Labour's "tax and spend" policies ..... Page 2

Summoned by bells

A shortage of bell-ringers is keeping many church towers silent, in spite of a £3 million donation from the Millennium Commission to repair old and disused bells ..... Page 3

Breeder banned

Frieda Cook, who used to breed Cruft's winners, was banned from keeping animals for life after inspectors found West Highland terriers living in squalid conditions in her kennels ..... Page 3

Holiday camp jail

Officials are negotiating to buy the disused Pontins holiday camp at Heysham, Lancashire, to house 700 prisoners ..... Page 4

Fairy lights death

Cara Weatherstone, 6, was electrocuted in front of her family as she switched on the Christmas tree fairy lights at their home in East Yorkshire ..... Page 5

Battling Yeltsin

President Yeltsin returned to work declaring he was "ready for battle" after his heart surgery. He invited John Major to visit Moscow in the new year ..... Page 8

Soros the generous

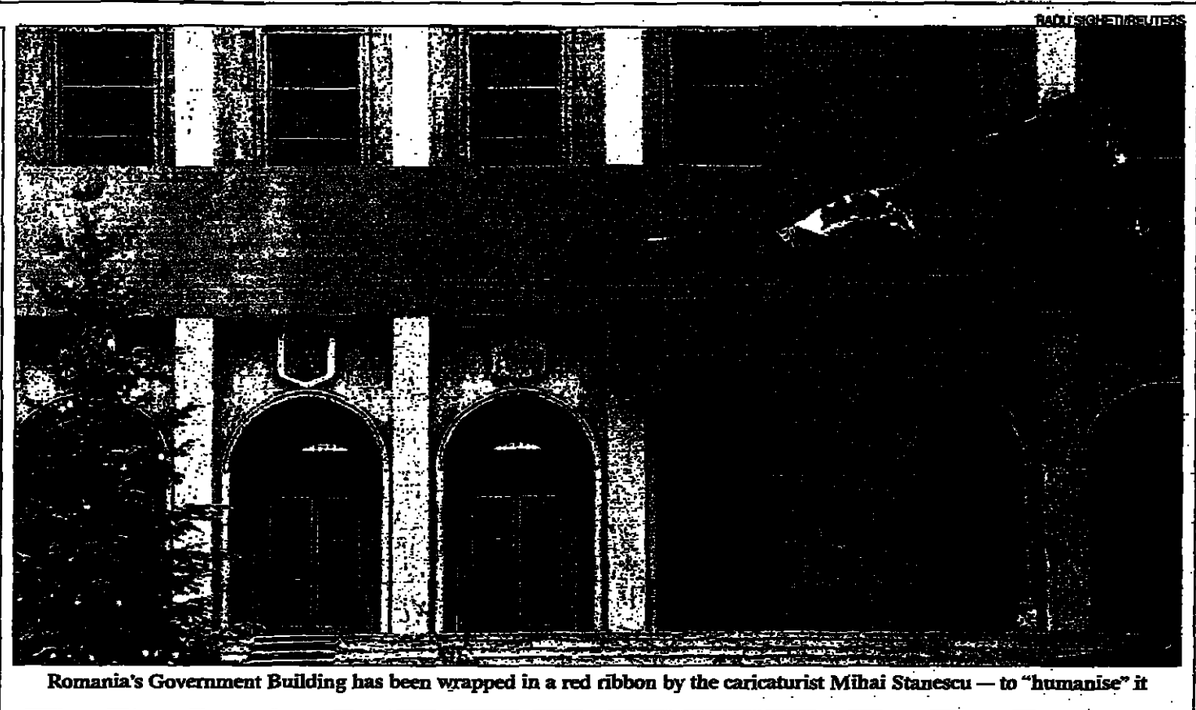
George Soros, the financier who made a fortune betting against the pound on Black Wednesday, has been named America's most generous philanthropist ..... Page 8

Mid-East hope

Israeli and Palestinian officials were on the verge of a deal to revive the Middle East peace process. Binyamin Netanyahu unexpectedly joined talks on troop deployments across the West Bank, paving the way for further Palestinian self-rule ..... Page 9

Les douze jours de Noël

■ Showing an excess of romantic zeal, *The Times's* true lover has abandoned his British reserve and ventured to Europe for his partridges, pear trees, turtle doves and other assorted gifts — and cut the cost of Christmas in the process. The gold rings came in a job lot from Florence; the swans a-swimming from Denmark, and the maids a-milking from Portugal ..... Page 6



RADU SIGHET/REUTERS

Romania's Government Building has been wrapped in a red ribbon by the caricaturist Mihai Stanescu — to "humanise" it

BUSINESS

Power struggle: The fate of Northern Electric will be decided today when CE Electric's £782 million hostile takeover bid closes at 1pm, the new deadline set by the Takeover Panel ..... Page 21

Golden handshake: The finance director of LucasVarity has left the company with share options and compensation totalling £1.6 million ..... Page 21

Prices warning: The Governor of the Bank of England warned the Chancellor that October's base rate rise might not be enough .. Page 21

Markets: The FTSE 100 index of leading shares rose 9.6 to a record high of 4,087.2. On the foreign exchange the pound rose .72 cents to $1.6740 and 1.18 pfennigs to DM2.6017 ..... Page 24

SPORT

Football: Colin Murphy, the general manager of Notts County, and Steve Thompson, the team manager, were sacked after an emergency board meeting ..... Page 40

Rugby union: Bath and Leicester, last season's finalists, were drawn together in the sixth round of the Pilkington Cup. Saracens entertain Wasps in a London derby Page 40

Cricket: The England tour party spent yesterday at Victoria Falls, able to reflect on stirring performances from Nasser Hussain, John Crawley and Nick Knight in the first Test ..... Page 35

Sailing: Tempers are fraying in the BT Global Challenge after a clash between Chay Blyth, the race director, and Adrian Donovan, skipper of *Heath Insured II* ..... Page 36

ARTS

Video vision: The image of the year, says Richard Cork, was *The Messenger*, Bill Viola's video installation for Durham Cathedral, proving that contemporary art can compete with medieval masterpieces in our churches ..... Page 12

Hallelujah: Handel's *Messiah* still pulls in the crowds, especially when performed with dramatic intensity and sensuous austerity by The Sixteen ..... Page 12

Yule with Jools: Glorious variety and a great guest list made Jools Holland's Christmas jamboree a party to remember ..... Page 13

Irish Almond: "The definitive festive celebration" of pop in Dublin with Marc Almond turned out to be memorable for rather different reasons ..... Page 13

PEOPLE

First Christmas: Twelve months ago Costel was living in an orphanage. Now he is having his first meaningful Christmas with the English family who brought him through the bureaucracy of post-Ceausescu Romania ..... Page 10

Last chance: Your guide to stocking up on those provisions you need for Christmas but have left until the last-minute ..... Page 11

Present Imperfect: Why women love making a big song and dance about shopping for presents even though, says Joe Joseph, they are not really very good at it ... Page 11

LAW

Wising up: In the 1980s, many law firms expanded fast and took on more staff. Edward Fennell reveals how attitudes for the 1990s are more realistic ..... Page 29

Making Saddam pay: How the United Nations is achieving an impressive victory in its struggle to get Iraq to pay reparations for its invasion of Kuwait ..... Page 29

THE PAPERS

The hostage affair in Peru could at any moment turn into the horror of a massacre. But the most tragic thing about the events in Lima is their old-fashioned aspect. As if the bloody history of the last 30 years had not happened. Tupac Amaru claims that it follows Che Guevara, who died because of his mistaken analyses — *Le Figaro*, Paris

TV LISTINGS

All the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day television and radio programmes, from *Famous Fred* to *Faust* and from *Jurassic Park* to *Blazing Saddles* ..... Pages 38, 39

OPINION

God with us

Mary's child is the crucified Lord who knows the agony of a Dunblane or a Rwanda from the inside. He is now and always the God who is with us ..... Page 15

Midnight chimes

Hong Kong's past gives Britain much to be proud of; it is up to China to match that record when, at midnight in just under 190 days, the page opens on Hong Kong's future ..... Page 15

Imperfect peace

The most valuable time this week will be the quietest. Seekers after silence should signal their intentions with care and avoid Snowdon ..... Page 15

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

Those who work on Christmas Day are a small, strange, proud tribe. They prefer not to admit to uninitiates that working on Christmas Day has inimitable satisfactions of its own ..... Page 14

ALAN COREN

A brief history of Christmas:
1662: Several Plymouth pilgrims return from New World to spend Christmas with relatives. First hot roast turkey eaten.
1663: Last cold roast turkey eaten.
1664: Last turkey risotto polished off.
1665: Great Plague ..... Page 14

WOODROW WYATT

Contrary to the prevailing illusion that fewer guns means less crime, it appears that the more law-abiding men and women there are who know how to handle guns and are allowed to carry them, the less crime there is ..... Page 14

OBITUARIES

Vance Packard, author of *The Hidden Persuaders*; **Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Thompson**; **Dame Elizabeth Hill**, Cambridge professor of Slavonic studies; **Charles Proctor**, conductor ..... Page 17

LETTERS

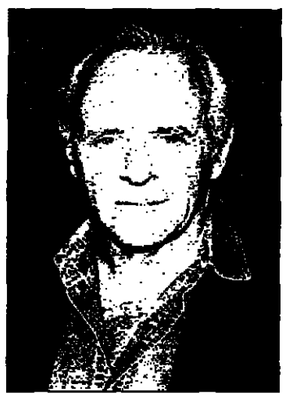
Handgun debate; war veterans; *The Times* in the Nazi era; Red Cross parcels ..... Page 15

BOXING DAY

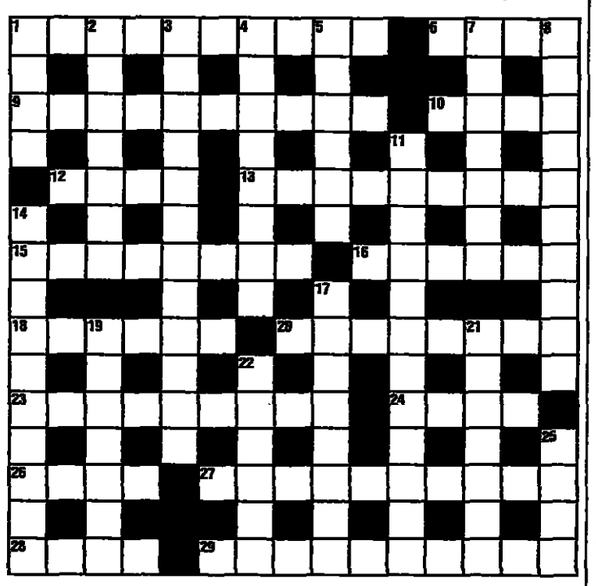
IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS
Geoff Brown on Anthony Hopkins (left) in *Surviving Picasso*, plus other new releases

■ BOOKS
Marianne Wiggins on *Gut Symmetries*, latest novel by Jeanette Winterson (right)



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,359



ACROSS

1 Returning us on launch across lake? Unfortunately not! (2,4,4).
6 Starts off Christmas holiday in carefree style (4).
9 Old computer equipment involved with Christmas post? (4-6).
10 Look around St. Paul's for his monument (4).
12 Too wise, so to speak, for such trifles? (4).
13 Extremely mundane source of present-day deliveries? (5,4).
15 Remove broadcast involving Queen indefinitely? (8).
16 Order initiating first Christmas journey (6).
18 Too much a feature of Christmas festivities? (6).
20 Author seen at dance that's thrown in winter (8).
23 Cast Emma in top festive entertainment (9).
24 Travels over snow, taking some risk, I suppose (4).
26 Rang bells, say, as instructed (4).
27 Gold, for example, from generous first of magi – and the rest follow (5,5).
28 Fire-fighting equipment you may put near fire soon (4).
29 Closely associated with workers outside home (4,2,4).

DOWN

1 Steal, hence arrest and prison (4).
2 Christmas present he dreamed about, amongst others (7).
3 Present deliverer of Queen's seasonal message (9,3).
4 50 people employed as apprentices (8).
5 Provides comfort for so long! (6).
7 Supporter turns up in time to provide protection (7).
8 Girl of 23 who found happiness in fitting success (10).
11 Christmas travellers ordered new Times here (5,4,3).
14 Great excitement as filly constantly leads the field (5,5).
17 Like some Christmas post, not directed across the ocean? (8).
19 Christmas lights are capable of transforming 25 (7).
21 A small number in the opera (7).
22 Girl's two letters lost by Santa Claus? (6).
25 With onset of snow, blazed a trail in this? (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,358

HARPIST FLACCID
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S W E M E O T
SNAPPINGTURTLE
S E T A N R
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BEADLEDOM TOFFS
B T A A O I T
AHEAD HINDRANCE
R S E O I E R
DETENTE ANDIRON

Times Two Crossword, page 40

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 8C (46F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, -3C (27F); highest rainfall: Fair Isle, Shetland, 0.24in, highest sunshine: Belfast, 6.6hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 34.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1995

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Most of England and Wales should be dry with bright or sunny spells. Through the afternoon, cloud will spill down eastern coastal counties with some light sleet or snow showers. There will be a bitterly cold east to northeast wind in southern areas.

Eastern Scotland will have cloudy skies with scattered wintry showers; the rest of Scotland, and Northern Ireland, should be dry with bright or sunny spells.

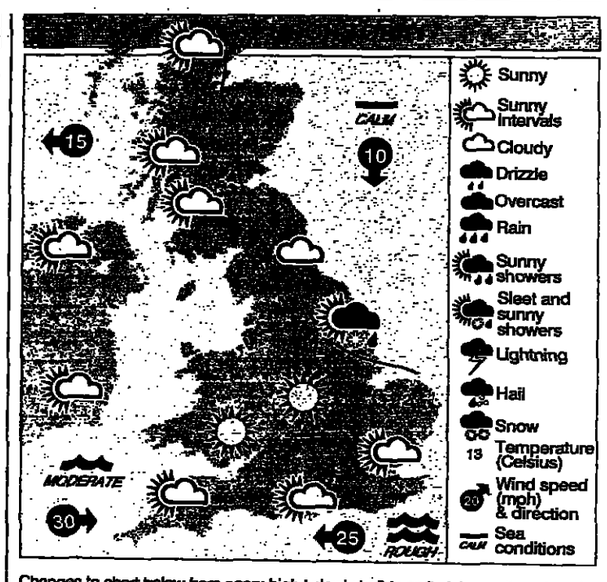
☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, East Anglia, Midlands, SW England, S Wales:** Mainly dry with bright or sunny spells. Wind east to northeast fresh. Bitterly cold. Maximum temperature 3C to 5C (37F to 41F).

☐ **E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee areas, Aberdeen area, Orkney, Shetland:** Rather cloudy with scattered light wintry showers. Wind mostly north to northeast light to moderate. Cold. Max 3C to 5C (37F to 41F).

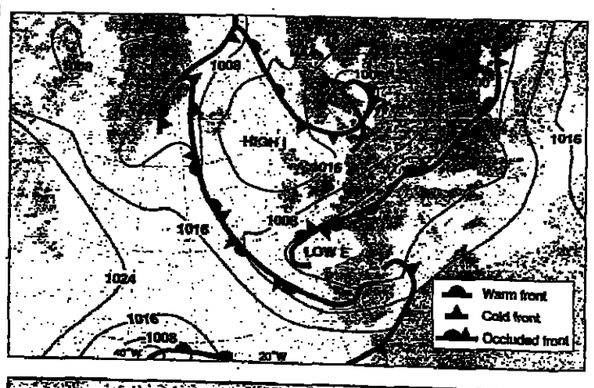
☐ **Channel Isles:** Rather cloudy with patchy rain or sleet at first. Wind east to northeast strong to near gale. Bitterly cold. Max 1C to 3C (34F to 37F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow area, Central Highlands, Moray Firth area, Argyll, Northern Ireland:** Mostly dry with bright or sunny spells. Winds light to moderate easterly. Cold. Max 3C to 5C (37F to 41F).

☐ **Outlook for Christmas Day and Boxing Day:** There will be a few wintry showers in the east at first; otherwise, it will be dry and cold.



Changes to chart below from noon: high I slowly builds as it sinks southeastwards. Complex area of low pressure over Iberia, including low E, slowly fills, moves east



AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	-	0	32	c	Lerwick	1.8	-	4	39	b
Anglesey	5.7	-	5	41	s	Leuchars	1.2	-	4	39	c
Aspatria	5.5	-	4	39	s	Littlehmptn	4.5	-	7	45	s
Aviemore	3.9	-	-3	27	s	London	3.3	-	6	43	s
Belfast	6.8	-	5	41	s	Lowestoft	3.0	-	5	41	s
Birmingham	4.4	-	4	39	b	Manchester	6.0	-	5	41	s
Bognor R	4.6	-	6	43	s	Margate	2.9	-	6	43	b
Bournem'th	0.2	0.01	6	43	c	Minehead	1.6	-	4	39	b
Bristol	5.8	-	5	41	s	Morecambe	5.3	-	5	41	s
Buxton	6.0	-	2	36	s	Newcastle	2.5	-	6	43	sh
Cardiff	5.8	-	4	39	s	Newquay	-	0.01	6	43	c
Clacton	X					Norwich	5.5	-	6	43	s
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	3.9	-	3	37	s
Colwyn Bay	5.6	-	5	41	s	Penzance	X	0.01	7	45	du
Cromer	5.5	-	5	41	s	Poole	-	-	7	45	c
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	-	4	39	s
Eastbourne	-	-	5	41	c	Rose-a-wye	4.1	-	4	39	s
Edinburgh	X					Sandown	-	-	7	45	b
Eskdalemuir	3.6	-	3	37	b	Saunton Snd	2.1	-	6	43	du
Exmouth	-	0.01	5	41	du	Shanklin	-	-	6	43	c
Falmouth	-	0.03	6	43	c	Skegness	6.0	-	5	41	s
Fishguard	3.0	-	6	43	b	Southport	6.5	-	5	41	s
Folkestone	3.6	-	5	41	b	Southsea	0.3	-	7	45	c
Glasgow	5.9	-	4	39	s	Stornoway	-	-	3	37	b
Guernsey	-	0.08	8	46	c	Swanage	-	-	7	45	c
Hastings	2.7	-	4	39	b	Teignmouth	-	0.04	7	45	du
Hayling I.	3.1	-	7	45	b	Tenby	4.6	-	7	45	s
Herne Bay	X					Tiree	6.2	-	5	41	s
Hove	2.3	-	6	43	b	Torquay	-	0.04	6	43	c
Hunstanton	5.4	-	5	41	s	Tynemouth	-	0.01	5	41	s
Isle of Man	6.3	-	6	43	s	Valentia	-	-	6	43	c
Jersey	-	0.17	7	45	du	West-s-mare	4.3	-	4	39	s
Kinloss	1.7	-	1	34	b	Weymouth	-	-	6	43	c
Leeds	4.7	-	4	39	s	These are Sunday's figures					

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	19	66	s	Corfu	17	63	f	Majorca	19	66	s	Rome	18	64	f
Akrotiri	19	66	f	C'phagn	1	34	c	Malaga	16	61	f	S Fr'isco	13	55	s
Alex'dria	22	72	f	Dublin	5	41	s	Malta	21	70	s	S Paulo	28	82	c
Algiers	26	79	s	Dubrovnik	X			Melb'rne	30	86	c	Salzburg	-3	27	c
Amst'dm	1	34	s	Faro	16	61	f	Mexico C	16	61	s	Santiago	31	88	s
Athens	17	63	f	Florence	14	57	f	Miami	22	72	f	Seoul	5	41	c
B Aires	32	90	c	Frankfurt	-1	30	s	Milan	9	48	d	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	22	72	s	Funchal	17	63	s	Montreal	0	32	s	St'kholm	-6	21	sn
Bangkok	29	84	s	Geneva	5	41	r	Moscow	-12	10	sn	Strasb'rg	0	32	c
Barbados	29	84	t	Gibraltar	17	63	c	Munich	-2	28	c	Sydney	25	77	s
Barcelona	16	61	f	Helsinki	-13	9	s	N Delhi	18	64	s	Tangier	17	63	f
Beirut	19	66	f	Hong K	22	72	X	N York	2	36	f	Tel Aviv	19	66	c
Belgrade	1	34	r	Innsbruck	5	41	c	Nairobi	28	82	f	Tenerife	17	63	d
Berlin	-2	28	c	Istanbul	9	48	f	Naples	18	64	s	Tokyo	12	54	s
Bermuda	17	63	r	Jeddah	27	81	s	Nice	16	61	f	Toronto	X		
Biarritz	17	63	f	Jo'burg	26	79	f	Oslo	-9	16	f	Tunis	27	81	f
Borde'x	11	52	f	L Angels	X			Paris	5	41	c	Valencia	15	59	f
Brussels	-1	30	s	L Palmas	18	64	r	Peking	4	39	s	Vanc'ver	-2	28	c
Budapest	-2	28	s	Le Touqt	1	34	s	Perth	25	77	s	Venice	8	46	c
Cairo	23	73	s	Lisbon	12	54	r	Prague	-13	9	s	Vienna	6	21	c
Cape Tn	27	81	s	Locarno	7	45	r	Reykjavik	4	39	f	Warsaw	-4	25	c
Ch'church	20	68	X	Luxembg	-1	30	c	Rhodes	19	66	s	Wash'ton	6	41	s
Chicago	4	39	f	Luxor	24	75	s	Rio de J	31	88	f	Wel'ngton	19	66	X
Cologne	1	34	s	Madrid	13	55	c	Riyadh	25	77	f	Zurich	3	37	c

Temperatures at midday on Sunday, local time. X = not available

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.02	7.0	1.23	7.0	Leith	1.54	5.2	2.19	5.4
Aberdeen	0.36	4.1	12.55	4.2	Liverpool	10.45	9.1	11.06	9.1
Avonmouth	6.33	12.9	6.58	12.9	Lowestoft	9.01	2.4	9.12	2.5
Belfast	10.46	3.6	11.09	3.4	Margate	11.46	4.6		
Cardiff	6.30	11.8	6.54	11.8	Milford Haven	5.41	6.8	6.03	6.7
Devonport	5.10	5.3	5.31	5.2	Newquay	4.25	6.5	4.46	6.4
Dover	10.42	6.5	11.03	6.5	Oban	5.02	3.8	5.30	3.9
Dublin (N Wall)	11.23	4.1	11.37	3.9	Penzance	4.06	5.3	4.26	5.3
Falmouth	4.34	5.0	4.51	4.8	Portland	6.06	2.0	6.31	1.9
Greenock	-	-	12.07	3.6	Portsmouth	10.50	4.7	11.18	4.5
Harwich	11.15	3.8	11.40	3.9	Shoreham	10.53	6.1	11.20	6.0
Holyhead	9.56	5.0	10.14	5.3	Southampton	10.15	4.5	10.40	4.4
Hull (Albert D)	5.35	7.2	5.55	7.3	Swansea	5.51	9.0	6.14	9.1
Ilfracombe	5.26	9.0	5.49	9.0	Tees	3.04	5.1	3.27	5.1
King's Lynn	5.39	6.5	6.00	6.6	Walton-on-Naze	11.12	4.1	11.34	4.1

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.05 am
Sun sets: 3.56 pm
Moon sets: 7.11 am
Moon rises: 4.13 pm
Full moon today

London 3.56 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 4.05 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.42 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 3.53 pm to 8.25 am
Penzance 4.24 pm to 8.20 am

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24 1996

Northern's fate to be decided today

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE fate of Northern Electric was in the balance as the Takeover Panel's full executive committee held an emergency meeting last night to consider the company's plea for independence.

The panel was meeting to rule on Northern's request to overturn an extension to the bid period which will give control to CE Electric, which is bidding £782 million.

Northern shares were suspended but lobbying of institutions by the two sides continued after the deadline was extended on Friday night to today.

The panel is mounting a full investigation into a fee paid by Northern to BZW, one of its advisers.

The outcome of the bitterly contested bid by CE Electric hangs on whether the Takeover Panel's executive overturns a decision made late on Friday night to extend the bid period to this lunchtime. Northern is fighting the move because by lunchtime on Friday — the original deadline for bid acceptances — it had retained independence after CE Electric captured only 49.77 per cent of shares. By the weekend CE Electric said that late acceptances had pushed it to victory with 50.33 per cent.

The panel's bid extension and the challenge by Northern take the takeover into uncharted territory and effectively means that the Takeover Panel, which oversees procedure in takeovers and mergers, has the last word in whether Northern remains independent.

Northern moved yesterday morning to appeal against the decision to extend the bid period, made after the Panel is believed to have become concerned over the "discretionary" payment of £250,000 to BZW by Northern. The payment is made in addition to a flat rate fee of £1.5 million for work on the bid defence.

At the heart of the issue is whether the payment, which BZW said was not performance-related, was connected with the controversial purchase of shares by BZW and Schroders. Both sets of advisers have been prevented from buying further shares although the panel had cleared their initial purchases. The purchase of more than 2 per cent of Northern's shares had a crucial effect on the outcome of the bid as it stood on Friday afternoon.

The fee payment to BZW has been frozen and Northern's shares were suspended pending the panel appeal. The panel is refusing to give its reasons officially for the bid extension until after the outcome of the appeal.

BZW is refusing to comment on its own appeal, which is thought to have been made separately from Northern.

The discretionary payment was made known to the panel on Friday, the last day of the bid and the day when advisers are customarily paid.

It is possible the Securities and Futures Authority will become involved if the Takeover Panel finds any improper action from BZW. A spokesman for the broker said it would co-operate with the investigation fully. He said: "We would expect full exoneration."

Northern and CE Electric both continued to fight for the support of institutions and individual shareholders yesterday. With the bid extended until 1pm today the fate of Northern could still be sealed by withdrawal of acceptances.

The Takeover Panel's decision will be final although Northern could seek a higher appeal through a judicial review. However, this course of action is not thought likely.

The Director-General of the panel is Alistair Defriez who headed the corporate finance team that defended Northern Electric against its first hostile bid from Trafalgar House.

Pennington, page 23

DES JENSON

'Twas the day before Christmas . . . a costumed Bifu official explains why it is calling a strike at Lloyds Bank today

Bifu invokes the Santa clause

By Gavin Lumsden

THE Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) enlisted Santa Claus yesterday to tell Lloyds TSB customers in the City of London why it is calling for its 16,000 members at the bank to strike this afternoon.

Bifu is protesting at the bank's plans to keep branches open until 4.30pm, in spite of a traditional agreement to close at lunchtime on Christmas Eve. The bank did not know how many branches would be affected but said all cashpoint machines should be working.

Bifu claimed the bank had largely backed down by agreeing to let many people go earlier than 4.30pm. A spokesman for the union said: "We don't think there will be any customers to be disrupted." A Bifu spokesman said there would be no pickets outside branches. "The idea is to get as many people home as soon as possible."

NatWest staff last week rejected Bifu's strike calls. Its branches will stay open until 3.30pm today. Barclays said most of its 2,000 branches would be open in the afternoon, but local management could arrange to close if there was insufficient demand.

☐ 16,000 Bifu members are due to strike on January 2 in Scotland against the banks' moves to change the bank holiday.

Business Today

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4087.2	(+9.6)
Yield	3.98%	
FTSE All share	1998.06	(+4.35)
Nikkei	Closed	
New York:		
Dow Jones	6502.47	(+18.07)*
S&P Composite	748.54	(-0.33)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%*	(5 3/16%)
Long Bond	99 1/32*	(99 27/32)
Yield	6.57%*	(6.59%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 13/32%	(6 13/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	109 25/32	(109 9/16)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6715*	(1.6703)
London:		
$	1.6735	(1.6657)
DM	2.5998	(2.5899)
FFr	8.7700	(8.7452)
SFr	2.2359	(2.2257)
Yen	190.72	(190.28)
£ Index	94.5	(94.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5563*	(1.5518)
FFr	5.2505*	(5.2375)
SFr	1.3370*	(1.3340)
Yen	114.10*	(114.35)
$ Index	98.3	(98.4)

Tokyo close Yen 114.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	$22.70	($22.90)

GOLD

London close	$368.85	($369.35)

* denotes midday trading price

New deal

The Industrial Society today urges unions and employers to agree an employment charter, called New Deal at Work, covering pay, hours and industrial relations.
Page 22

BA settles

British Airways has agreed to settle a dispute with Caledonian Airways over aircraft maintenance at a cost of £6 million. Caledonian's parent company says the disruption cost the company £17 million.
Page 23

Sears on brink of Freemans deal

By Sarah Cunningham

SEARS, the retailing group, is close to agreeing the sale of its Freemans home shopping business to Littlewoods, Sears revealed yesterday.

Littlewoods, the family-owned retailing and pools business, is expected to pay between £350 million and £400 million for Freemans.

It has had to beat off other bidders, believed to include Otto Versand, of Germany; N Brown, the mail order specialists chaired by Sir David Alliance; and Great Universal Stores, Britain's largest mail order company.

The sale is conditional on the agreement of terms and the approval of Sears shareholders. The Office of Fair Trading would also have to indicate that it does not intend to refer the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Littlewoods is understood to have been in touch with the OFT in the last few days. It is thought the deal is unlikely to be referred because a combined Freemans and Littlewoods would still be smaller than GUS. Littlewoods has a market share of about 30 per cent, while GUS controls some 35 per cent of the market.

Sears, which includes the Selfridges, Warehouse, Wallis and British Shoe Corporation businesses, is expected to return to shareholders cash raised from the deal. The City remained unexcited by the news of progress, however, with Sears shares edging up just ½p to 89½p, and Liam Strong, chief executive of the sprawling group, remains under pressure to improve its performance.

Both Littlewoods and Freemans specialise in agency mail order. The companies publish large catalogues and pay fees to agents who place orders on behalf of friends and family. The agency business is in decline but still makes up by far the largest part of the mail order sector.

Tempus, page 24

George's fear for inflation target

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, warned the Chancellor that the small rate rise of late October might not be enough to give a better than evens chance of hitting his inflation target.

In the minutes of the October 30 monetary meeting, after which base rates were raised a quarter point to 6 per cent, the Governor cited accelerating economic growth and the failure of inflation to fall back as had been expected as key reasons behind his recommendation of a rate rise.

He intimated that a further monetary tightening might be needed but also noted that raising rates earlier than the markets had been expecting would have a "relatively strong signal effect on the credibility of policy".

He added: "That would reduce the size and speed of the rise in rates that might eventually be necessary to make the inflation target secure and sustain the economic expansion."

His comments appear to be consistent with remarks made subsequently, notably in testimony before the Treasury Select Committee earlier this month. He said that rates may have to rise again but the need was not dramatic or urgent.

For his part, the minutes show that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, agreed with the Governor's recommendation. However, the two men disagreed fundamentally on the impact of sterling's appreciation on the monetary situation, leaving the way open for potential disagreement on rates in the new year.

The Bank argued that, while sterling's strength might offset some domestically generated inflationary pressures, it did nothing directly to address the source of these pressures — namely an upswing in domestic demand. Sterling's rise was not, in itself, a tightening of monetary policy. In contrast, Mr Clarke and his advisers argued it did tighten policy.

The timing of any further rate rise is uncertain. The two men meet again on January 15 and, if under pressure from the Bank to raise rates, Mr Clarke may move swiftly to avoid such an unpopular step too close to the election. On the other hand, the Chancellor may wait until February's monetary meeting when he will have the benefit of fourth-quarter growth figures.

TO·BED AND·SO·TO·BED
The Complete Bedroom Shop
SALE
Starts 27th December
Hundreds of genuine Reductions on Bedsteads, Mattresses & Divans, Accessory Furniture & exquisite Linens, many at HALF Price!
From our Empire Range Chatelaine solid cherrywood Lit Bateau was £2050
Now £840
5'0"x6'6" Charteris Luxury Double Pocket Divan Set was £2325
Now £1625
Gothic style Bedstead in Hand Forged Iron was £895
Now £760
For full details of these and other Sale Items contact our showrooms at
Kings Road, London 0171 731 3593
Tunbridge Wells 0189 251 5099, Belfast 01232 324154
Wilmslow 0162 552 2292, Edinburgh 0131 225 6998
Stourbridge 0138 437 4717, Harrogate 0142 350 3060
Esher, Surrey 0137 246 4828, Keswick 0176 877 4881
Rake (nr. Petersfield) 0173 089 4754
And So To Bed Studios at
Middlesborough 0164 223 0988, Bath 0122544 4554
Newcastle 0191 261 6969, Grimsby 0147 235 3251

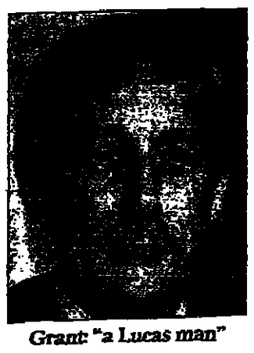
LucasVarity finance chief replaced after four months

By Eric Reguly

JOHN GRANT has been ousted as finance director of LucasVarity, four months after Lucas and Varity merged to form one of the world's largest automotive components groups. He left with share options and compensation totalling £1.6 million.

LucasVarity said Mr Grant, 49, the former finance director of Lucas Industries, was told after a board meeting last Wednesday that he was to be replaced by Neil Arnold, also 49, who was Varity's chief financial officer. A spokesman said: "The board concluded that the company wanted someone with more international experience and outlook."

Analysts, however, said that Mr Grant was marked simply because "he was a Lucas man". Although the companies came together in a one-for-one share swap, Varity is beginning to exert management control over the group. Mr Grant's departure reduces the number of LucasVarity board members to ten, giving equal representation to each company.



Grant: "a Lucas man"

Mr Grant was on a two-year rolling contract and will be paid about £575,000 in salary and other benefits. He also leaves with 800,000 share options, most granted at 95p. At yesterday's closing price of 226½p, down 6p, the options are worth about £1 million.

Mr Grant joined Lucas in 1992 after a career at Ford of Europe in the treasury and business strategy departments. He was not available to comment about his plans.

Mr Arnold joined Varity, formerly Massey Ferguson, 26 years ago, starting in the Perkins engines division in Peterborough. In 1975, he moved to the head office in Canada, where he joined the finance department, and became treasurer in 1981. He played a key role in the restructuring of the near-bankrupt company, which involved debt negotiations with 250 lenders and four governments, in the 1980s. In 1990, he became Varity's chief financial officer.

RJB plans to lift earnings with £34m share buyback

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

RJB MINING, the independent coal producer whose shares fell sharply after a profit downgrade by its broker earlier this month, has announced plans for a £34 million share buyback.

Shares of RJB, Britain's largest independent coal producer, fell 23 per cent to 372½p from 485p after BZW sharply downgraded its profits forecast for the next two years.

Gordon McFee, RJB's finance director, said the company wanted the ability to lift earnings per share through a buyback while the share price was subdued. Yesterday it stood at 439p after recovering ground from its fall. Mr McFee said a 5 per cent buyback could deliver an earnings per share increase of about four per cent on yesterday's price. The buyback requires the approval of shareholders at a special meeting next month.

The buyback will stretch to the limit the company's jurisdiction for buying back its shares after a £94 million repurchase in July. Companies are allowed to buy a maximum of 15 per cent of their own shares in a full year with the permission of their shareholders.

RJB's share price has seesawed in the past 12 months from a high of 645p to the low of 372½p. BZW downgraded profits because of cheap coal imports and production problems at one of its collieries.

RJB will soon renegotiate important contracts with the electricity generators — the first to be discussed in the privatised electricity industry.

Despite its success since buying the bulk of British Coal's mines, RJB faces increasing competition from gas as a fuel for electricity generation. The generators were originally locked into contracts to buy British coal, but these expire in 1998.

Pennington, page 23

BOXING DAY IN THE TIMES
In *The Times* on Boxing Day find out how tens of thousands of building society customers are risking losing bonuses averaging £1,000 each. Also financial market updates and news stories

Employees get chance to become traders in the perks market

Fraser Nelson reports on the American system of flexible benefits tipped to grow over here

Office parties, 'flu epidemics and desperate attempts to use unclaimed holidays before the year end have long been traditional ingredients of the corporate Christmas. The hangovers and sniffles remain, but the choice between using or losing holiday allowance is gradually dying out.

Its replacement is a US-style benefits system that invites workers to exchange unused holiday for healthcare, extra pension or hard cash. The flexible benefits system is designed to release the difference between what a perk costs the company and what it is worth to the employee. The worker is given a fixed budget with which to pick from the benefits menu, and pocket any change.

Although the system is used by nearly half of US companies, it is taking a long time to reach Britain. It represents little short of a revolution in remuneration culture, replacing the UK's traditionally paternalistic benefits system and empowering the employee.

However, the arguments for the new system are becoming hard to ignore. Workers no longer expect jobs for life and now turn up at interview with their own life cover, pensions and healthcare scheme. Additional benefits mean duplication, unnecessary handouts and what is becoming, for companies, wholesale waste.

Although British firms are hesitant to plunge into a fully flexible system, a growing number, including Lloyds TSB, are prepared to sample it. The bank's overall benefits are not flexible, but it has extended the shelf-life of holiday allowance from 12 to 15 months. Barclays Bank goes further, with unused holiday valid for life. Its holiday float lets staff keep up to five days' holiday allowance on ice, indefinitely.

KPMG runs a holiday "bank", whose currency is overtime. Each extra hour employees work is credited to their leisure account, from which a holiday can be withdrawn.

Companies are not, however, thawing other benefits. Mercury Communications is alone among blue chip companies in having a full-blooded, money-on-the-table system of flexible benefits. Its 18-month-old system takes in everything from life assurance to childcare vouchers. Employees can trade benefits to fit their lifestyle.

The most frequently traded of Mercury's benefits is holiday. Twenty-five days are standard issue, of which employees can sell up to five. Alternatively, other benefits can be traded in for more holiday, to a maximum of 30 days.

A quarter of Mercury staff have traded their holidays this year, with sellers outnumbering buyers.

Whereas the Barclays holiday bank is open only to those with 15 years' service, Mercury's system includes everyone, including part-timers. They are offered a mini-flex system, in which they can buy and sell hours per week, rather than days per year. The cash value of each holiday is found by dividing basic salary by working days. To Mercury, all days are equal; it pays out the same for Christmas Eve as for any day.

In the US, some firms buy back holidays at a sharp premium to the selling price, to lure workers back from vacation in times of need. This has given rise to holiday futures traders. Canny employees can request holidays when they expect things to be busy, using credits in their holiday bank. If they bet correctly, the firm may buy back the holiday for twice the amount paid for it.

A fledgeling system can have defects, as the Royal Mail discovered when it pioneered a "cafeteria" benefits package four years ago. John Millidge, then its head of pay, turned to a flexible system to revamp an ailing benefits package. "Our managers had good basic salaries, but lousy perks," he said. "We were having real problems recruiting."

He recalls: "To start with, it didn't work terribly well. Drivers with poor insurance records opted for company cars, which ended up being quite expensive. And we found that the walking wounded were claiming the health insurance, which also hit us quite badly.

"But we learned an incredible amount. People who lived in London were opting for the cash rather than the car, and when the government pay restrictions came, people could opt for more salary and maintain their standard of living by giving up their car or the healthcare."

The Royal Mail found that flexible benefits can perform the fiscal alchemy of giving employees more value from their perks at the same cost to the employer. Also, freedom of choice had its own value as another bargaining chip in recruiting.

From its roots as a novelty, flexible benefit is now being adopted by companies nervous about falling behind. Management consultants say that the debate in British companies has now focused on when, rather than whether, to make the switch.

Carol Woodley, partner in human capital services at Arthur Andersen, forecasts that the new system will become more visible over the next year as big-name companies put long-held plans into effect.

Cathy Turner, head of Ernst & Young's compensation practice, says that the collapse of tax benefits on company cars has acted as a catalyst for change.

"From a company's perspective, the advantage of the system is that it gives more choice to the employee while leaving the power completely in the firm's hands," she says. "British companies are now emerging from three years of downsizing, and those who may need extra help will find it useful to buy a few more days of their workers' time."

Industrial Society calls for new deal at work

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN needs a new deal at work, based on a partnership between employers and employees, business and trade union leaders say today.

The call for a new jobs framework based around a new employment charter comes from the Industrial Society, the joint employer-employee body seeking improved workplace relations.

In their call for a new deal, leaders of the Industrial Society, which brings together business, union and other leaders on a range of training, work and similar issues, believe they are seizing on a new consensus for co-operation before the general election.

But in its emphasis on mutual rights and responsibilities, the society's new employment charter may well be viewed suspiciously by government ministers, who are likely to regard it as too closely in line with the proposals for partnership at work being put forward by Tony Blair, the Labour leader.

Labour's employment campaign in the election will centre on the adoption of minimum standards at work, and the society today says that in an era of globalisation and free trade, minimum standards are essential for the benefit of employers and employees alike.

In terms highly reminiscent of those of Labour leaders, Jo Gardiner, Industrial Society campaigns manager, says: "We will not survive by ratcheting down standards of conduct, terms and conditions for short-term gains."

The society rejects as "unhelpful and unworkable" the proposals for further changes in employee relations put forward in the Government's latest green paper on strikes and trade unions, and says that the proposals are themselves a disproportionate reaction to the outbreak of strikes in the summer.

Ms Gardiner says: "We are not going to find the solutions we need in the past. What we need is a new deal at work. The time is right, the potential partners are ready.

"For UK businesses and organisations, civilised productive partnerships between employers and employees will be the only route to future long-term competitiveness."

The society's employment charter, which it says is aimed at moving the argument over industrial relations and employment rights forwards rather than backwards, says that employees are entitled to fair pay and benefits, regular consultation and working arrangements which balance work and home, together with other provisions.

In return, employees should operate responsibly, resolve any disagreements constructively and work flexibly, accommodating new ideas and practices. John Monks, TUC General Secretary, says: "The choice is clear: unions and employers can continue with adversarial relationships, or they can move to co-operation."

John Edmonds, leader of the GMB general union, says there is now the "best chance for 15 years — we'd better go for it".

For employers, the CBI says: "Employers need an initiative to build up momentum in employee relations practices."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.19	2.03
Austria Sch	19.18	17.68
Belgium Fr	56.20	51.90
Canada $	2.386	2.226
Cyprus Cyp£	0.815	0.760
Denmark Kr	10.46	9.66
Finland Mkk	8.29	7.64
France Fr	9.13	8.48
Germany Dm	2.74	2.53
Greece Dr	428	403
Hong Kong $	13.53	12.53
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Israel Shk	5.74	5.09
Italy Lira	2655	2500
Japan Yen	204.70	188.70
Malta	0.641	0.586
Netherlds Gld	3.051	2.821
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	11.31	10.51
Portugal Esc	271.50	253.00
S Africa Rd	8.38	7.58
Spain Pta	225.00	212.00
Sweden Kr	12.02	11.22
Switzerland Fr	2.35	2.17
Turkey Lira	184200	172200
USA $	1.766	1.636

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

MIKE WILKINSON
Colin Hook said the company was in a stronger position than a year or two ago

Ivory & Sime sees fall of 12% in funds at half time

By Gavin Lumsden

IVORY & SIME, the investment group, yesterday blamed the rise in sterling and economic weakness in Asia for a 12 per cent fall in funds under its management in the six months to October 31.

The company, which manages more than half of its assets overseas, saw its funds fall £500 million to £3.77 billion, a rise of just 2.9 per cent over 12 months. This was exacerbated by BAA's decision to take £200 million of its pension fund money away from Ivory & Sime. Nevertheless, Colin Hook, managing director, said the company hoped to launch a new Asian investment trust next year.

Ivory & Sime manages £1.5 billion in segregated pension funds and £2.3 billion in 15 investment trusts. Despite the setbacks, Mr Hook said the revenue stream remained steady with pre-tax profits up 27.7 per cent to £3.77 million.

The company also announced a 14 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 2.85p, payable on January 31, and said the final dividend would not be less than 5.75p. Earnings per share were 7.66p, up 19.3 per cent. Mr Hook said: "The company is undeniably in a stronger position than it was a year or two ago and if it wasn't for circumstances beyond our control the results would have been less mixed."

Mr Hook said a £2.1 million rise in administration costs to £6.59 million was due to last year's takeover of Clan Asset Management and Baronsmead and this year's redesign of the corporate identity. It also anticipated future recruitment of staff, he said.

Two weeks ago Ivory & Sime said Gordon Neilly, who joined in 1984, would leave the board next month.

Post Office profits to soar after record Christmas

By Oliver August

A RECORD number of Christmas cards and letters has been delivered to the nation, positioning the Post Office for further earnings increases after the rise in interim pre-tax profits from £170 million to £230 million.

The number of seasonal greetings has hit the two billion mark for the first time, beating last year's 1.8 billion.

Mail volumes peaked on December 16, when more than 128 million items were posted — the largest number of letters ever posted in a single day in the Post Office's 350-year history.

Post Office profits will be used to satisfy the Treasury's 1996-97 cash requirement, which this financial year amounts to nearly £300 million, and to pay corporation tax.

The basic price of stamps was increased by 1p last summer in direct response to the growing cash demands of the Government, according to the Post Office.

A spokesman said: "The Post Office and all its businesses will have to work hard for the rest of the financial year if we are to meet the Government's demanding cash and efficiency targets. The cash target amounts to £1 million every working day."

In the six months to September 28, turnover increased from £2.9 billion to £3 billion in spite of several one-day strikes.

During the four-week Christmas period, more than 250 million parcels have been delivered by Parcelforce, a 20 per cent increase on 1995. The company has to nearly double the number of night-time flights to distribute the post around the country during the Christmas period.

Royal Mail's fleet, Skynet, adds an extra 25 flights to its routine 32 journeys, which is already Britain's biggest night-time charter operation.

The huge seasonal workload has been shouldered by more than 130,000 postmen and women, helped by 25,000 extras recruited for the Christmas period. Royal Mail adds an extra 2,000 vehicles to the 30,000-strong fleet to deliver the Christmas mail.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BAA unveils City rail link for Heathrow

PLANS for a £30 million rail link between Heathrow and St Pancras station in north London opening in 1999 were unveiled yesterday by BAA. The 35-minute service is aimed at improving public transport connections between the airport and the City of London, currently linked only by the Piccadilly line of the Underground from Holborn. It will operate in tandem with the £400 million Heathrow Express rail service between the airport and Paddington in west London.

The service will run four times an hour, stopping at three stations in west and north London and will cost around £9 for a single journey. From 2003 the link will also connect with Eurostar services to the Continent departing from the planned international terminal at St Pancras. However, the announcement provoked fury at Virgin Group, which has been working on its own version of the link and had hoped BAA would grant it permission to build and develop the line itself.

Green light for B&W

THE planned £600 million takeover of the Bristol & West Building Society by the Bank of Ireland has been given the go-ahead by the Government. B&W investors of more than two years' standing should receive a cash windfall of at least £500, plus an amount related to their savings balances. Other savers, together with customers with mortgage accounts, should get £250 in B&W preference shares. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said he had decided not to refer the proposal to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

American boost for S&N

SMITH & NEPHEW, the healthcare company, expects to launch Dermagraft, its bio-engineered skin replacement, in late 1997. The announcement came after the US Food and Drug Administration accepted an application for regulatory approval of Dermagraft for the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers. Clinical trials showed healing time fell in patients who used the product. S&N and Advanced Tissue Sciences of America have formed a joint venture to develop Dermagraft.

Littlewoods stores sold

ARGENT, the property investment company, has acquired seven Littlewoods department stores for a total consideration of £32.2 million. The stores have been leased back to Littlewoods on new 25-year leases at an aggregate initial rent of £2.46 million. The stores are located in Bristol, Cheltenham, Glasgow, Kirkaldy, Lewisham, Oldham and Weston-Super-Mare. Argent shares rose 8p to 406½p yesterday.

Robeco buys manager

ROBECO GROUP, The Netherlands property company, has agreed to acquire Argyll Property Asset Managers from Scottish Amicable Investment Managers for an undisclosed sum. Argyll has contracts to manage £1.7 billion of property assets. Its largest client is Scottish Amicable, with a portfolio of £950 million. Argyll will operate independently in the UK and will offer services to overseas investors who want their property investments to be managed in the UK.

Takeover talk lifts OGC

SHARES of OGC International rose 41p to 116p after the oil and gas industry services company said it had received a takeover approach from Halliburton Co, parent company of Brown & Root International, that "may or may not lead to an offer". At yesterday's closing price, OGC is capitalised at about £70 million. The company, floated on the stock market in 1993, is 40 per cent owned by the interests of Fred Olsen, the Norwegian shipping and oil services company.

Lilleshall sells Vanplas

LILLESHALL has completed its withdrawal from the building materials supply market with the sale of Vanplas to The Laird Group for £3.15 million. Vanplas distributes plastic products for the window and building markets through 14 depots. In 1995 the business contributed operating profits of £288,000 on turnover of £14.5 million. However, trading in the current year has been disappointing, which will result in a loss. The disposal gives rise to an exceptional charge of £636,000.

NSM shares suspended

SHARES of NSM, the troubled mining company, were suspended at 8p yesterday pending clarification of its financial position. The company, which on Friday revealed it was in talks with its banks regarding working capital requirements, said it was not possible to maintain an orderly market in the shares while discussions continue. NSM is negotiating the sale of parts of its business and yesterday announced the sale of Clee Hill, a plant hire subsidiary, to a management team.

Stagecoach buy escapes reference to MMC

STAGECOACH'S proposed purchase of Porterbrook Leasing Company has escaped a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. John Taylor, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, said yesterday that he has accepted undertakings from Stagecoach that address competition concerns identified by John Bridgeman, the Director General of Fair Trading.

After the acquisition, Stagecoach will own train operating companies and a rolling stock business. Mr Bridgeman raised concerns about the potential for cross-subsidies and for discrimination and breaches of confidentiality in Porterbrook's deals with other train operators.

Liffe unveils Spitalfields plan

By Jon Ashworth

PLANS to create one of the world's biggest trading floors on the site of the former Spitalfields market in east London were unveiled yesterday — but the project may remain no more than a pipe-dream.

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe) is paying an undisclosed amount to secure 3.5 acres of Spitalfields, which is seeking to transform itself with a mixture of offices, shops and flats. If Liffe decides to go ahead, it plans to build a trading floor five times the size of the current Cannon Bridge operation — itself the biggest trading floor in Europe.

The Spitalfields floor would compare in size with the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), and would be backed up by 600,000 sq ft in offices and support areas. Liffe has effectively taken an option on the site and has a couple of years in which to decide whether to proceed. Any move to Spitalfields would not take place until 2001 at the earliest.

Liffe has expanded enormously in recent years and has been anxious to clear the way for a bigger exchange, trading volumes permitting. It recently merged with the London Commodities Exchange (LCE) and is to move some operations to the old Stock Exchange floor from mid-1998. The move will double Liffe's existing capacity.

Daniel Hodson, Liffe's chief executive, said the Spitalfields deal removed any long-term uncertainties over Liffe's future in the City. About 157 million futures and options contracts were traded at Liffe in the 11 months to November 30.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

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☐ New Takeover Code already looks dated ☐ Fat fees on thin base of expertise ☐ Ignorance is risk

Panel beating overstretches rules

☐ THERE is something seriously wrong when the fate of an important chunk of the country's infrastructure is decided by the votes attaching to a minute fraction of its shares, the manoeuvrings of overpaid advisers only concerned to keep themselves just barely within the rules and the decisions made under pressure by an unrepresentative regulator.

No one emerges with much credit on the last day of the bid for Northern Electric whichever way it goes, even if defeat for Northern looks the most likely outcome. CE Energy, the American bidder, arrived trailing accusations of junk bond financing that never entirely evaporated. They were then caught harassing Northern investors at home, a tactic that has no place in a civilised takeover bid.

As the timetable neared its end, and defeat for Northern loomed, the actions of its advisers looked more and more desperate. Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Schroders, acting for Northern, asked the Takeover Panel for permission to mop up spare Northern shares, to prevent them from being voted in favour of the bid. This is an allowed tactic; we will consider later if it is a legitimate one.

The Panel had to decide last week whether a £250,000 fee for BZW was linked to the share purchase. The rules say it should not have been, and the Panel obviously had its doubts, because the timetable for the bid was, extraordinarily, extended by four days to allow more acceptances to arrive.

This was where it all went awry. If BZW had acted wrongly, the Panel could have said so and disallowed those purchases. Say, for the purposes of the bid, they do not exist, and CE would have had by Friday lunchtime a majority of the rest of the shares, and won. Instead, the Panel extended the timetable, which also meant success for the Americans, but by a different and less certain route.

This is the dilemma. The inevitable appeal yesterday by Northern means the Panel appeal committee had to decide who owns the company, which is not its true function. It is meant to be the judge, charged with ensuring fair play, and not the jury. On a strict analysis, if BZW acted according to the rules, Northern has won under those rules, and the bid fails.

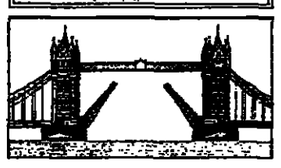
Far better to have avoided the whole mess by banning market purchases by either side. If institutions are stretching the rules to the limit, the rules need tightening. CE was able to buy a near-30 per cent holding in the market because some investors gambled that the bid would be thrown to the Monopolies Commission. This was not an investment decision, it was a straight bet, and a wrong one.

If bidders are not allowed to start with such a platform for a bid, then photo-finishes such as Northern's become, mathematically, less likely. The new edition of the *Takeover Code* has been published in the past fortnight. It already looks out of date.

Broker digs itself into a hole

☐ HALF a billion in City bonuses this year, no, three quarters of a billion, count it, and a billion in fees. Gosh, they must be clever, these City folk, to earn such fortunes. Worth every penny. Well, every now and then the curtain is twitched aside, and the emperor steps forward and struts his stuff.

PENNINGTON



Look at RJB Mining. This company either paid far too little for most of British Coal, or wildly overpaid. No one in the City seems quite sure, which is revealing in itself. At the end of 1994 the company paid £815 million for those coal pits. RJB had issued shares at between 250p and 340p. The shares hit a high of 625p in May; since then they have collapsed to 439p, after a 23 per cent fall one day earlier this month when the house broker, Barclays de Zoete Wedd — hi, BZW, having a good week? — cut its forecast.

Yet not a single variable, save the value of sterling which has affected every other industry in Britain, has changed since RJB bought those mines. The biggest two factors affecting RJB's share price are and remain the world price of coal and the renegotiation of long-term contracts to supply Britain's two big fossil fuel generators by March 1998.

Opinions differ on the outcome of those negotiations. A huge chunk of the business could disappear, replaced by cheap imported coal. Against this, much of the country's generation capacity is close to RJB's fields and away from the coast, and there are physical limits to how much the generators can import.

But all this was known. Listen to *The Times* on May 30 this year and so before the shares hit that peak. "Nemesis is looming once more for Britain's coal industry. Just three years after the Government (privatised) British Coal, the corporation's new owners are wondering how to keep the much-shrunken coal industry in business."

Yet it took a note seven months later from the company's broker to correct that overblown share price. And the broker, presumably closer to the company than the rest, was so far ahead of other market forecasts up until then because no one there had thought to take account of the importance of those contracts. Defies credibility, doesn't it?

Much the same the world over

☐ THOSE seeking confirmation that abroad really is awful should look to a study on risk in emerging markets published next week by specialist analyst Merchant International Group. Taking as its starting point the axiom that, if you think education is expensive, try ignorance, the study sets out the political and economic background in over 40 emerging nations, and what can go wrong in each.

All the old favourites are here: guerrillas in Latin America, Islamic fundamentalism in Africa and Turkey, political uncertainties that mar the strong economies of Burma, China and Indonesia, organised crime in the former Soviet Union and the new democracies in Eastern Europe and violence in South Africa. And everywhere, pervasive corruption and patronage, and expensive bureaucratic delay.

Stuart Poole-Robb, Merchant's chief executive, says information available to those venturing into emerging markets tends to be subjective. Bank research may be based on the countries' own economic data, and therefore suspect. This is putting it politely. In some markets everyone lies, from the finance ministry down.

But without succumbing too much to political correctness, one wonders how the developed world measures up. Outsiders trying to break into backwoods America can find the cards stacked against them in favour of local businesses. And anyone negotiating the corridors of Brussels might view the Russia mafia quite favourably. Once bought, at least they stay bought.

Holiday snap

☐ GHOSTS of privatisation are even coming back to haunt NFC, once a goodie among the fat cats. After buses and electricity, the pensions ombudsman is to report on accusations that NFC's fund surplus was used improperly for pay-offs and holidays. If true, it would be another case of riding roughshod over trustees because Whitehall or the board knows best. Ombudsmen were not meant to notice that.

BA makes peace with Caledonian at a cost of £6m

By Martin Barrow

BRITISH AIRWAYS has agreed to settle a dispute with Caledonian Airways over aircraft maintenance at a cost of £6 million.

BA has agreed to pay Caledonian Airways £1.6 million in cash and to subscribe for a new class of convertible preference shares of Inspirations, Caledonian's parent company, at a cost of £4.4 million.

The company has also agreed to enhance its engineering support for Caledonian's fleet, which was acquired from British Airways in 1995, at Gatwick and other UK airports, dedicating engineering resources specifically to Caledonian's Tristar aircraft.

The claim centred on several occasions this summer when aircraft were returned to Caledonian behind schedule after engineering work by British Airways at Gatwick disrupted the operator's charter programme.

British Airways Engineering has acknowledged that "there were occasions when engineering work had taken longer than anticipated, but safety is paramount and neither Caledonian Airways or British Airways would ever allow safety to be compromised". British Airways said that it regarded Caledonian Airways as "a valued customer".

Inspirations claims the total cost of the aviation and maintenance disruption was about £17 million for the year to September 30. British Airways is believed to have initially offered £1 million in settlement.

The disruption took place principally in August and September. Tour operating losses in September were compounded by the adverse publicity concerning flight delays and increased capacity retained by the company after the collapse of The Flight Company.

Inspirations, whose chief executive is Vic Fatah, yesterday reported pre-tax losses of £13.19 million for the year to September 30, compared with profits of £7.7 million in the previous 12 months. Turnover rose to £403.2 million from £356.1 million.

The basic loss per share was 27.66p a share, against earnings of 18.36p. There is no final dividend, leaving a total of 0.78p a share, up from 3.5p. The shares rose 1p to 75½p, against a 1996 high of 152½p.

Jim Harris, the Inspirations chairman, said there had been a 47 per cent increase in winter bookings, while the summer 1997 programme is 10 per cent ahead of last year. The number of holidays available next summer has been reduced.

Vic Fatah saw Inspirations suffer heavy pre-tax losses

Profits warning lops 180p off Brake Brothers

By Sarah Cunningham

SHARES of Brake Brothers, a leading supplier of food to the catering industry, lost nearly one-quarter of their value yesterday after the company gave warning that profits would fall short of City expectations.

The shares fell 180½p to 576p yesterday after Brake Brothers said that profits are set to decline due to problems at Puritan Maid, the food distribution business acquired from Forte for £7.5 million late last year.

Pre-tax profit in the year that ends on December 31 is likely to be about £24 million, the company said. This is below market expectations and substantially below the £27.1 million achieved last year.

The profit decline will interrupt a record of consistent profits growth since the company was floated ten years ago.

Puritan Maid is a multi-temperature distributor and its purchase was a shift away from Brake Brothers' traditional specialisation in frozen food distribution.

Puritan Maid's management, keen to extend its client base beyond Forte and to exploit spare capacity, took on new customers but then found its facilities over-stretched, according to Frank Brake, chief executive of Brake Brothers.

The company was then forced to hire extra staff and facilities. This meant incurring "substantial one-off costs and will lead to increased operating expenses in the medium term," the company said.

Brake Brothers, which is 60 per cent family-owned, has appointed a new managing director at Puritan Maid. Roger Spicer will take over from David Baron on January 1.

It is also pushing on with plans to develop a £20 million distribution centre in Birmingham, which should open early in 1998.

Tempus, page 24

Eurovein sells core business for £14.8m

By Fraser Nelson

EUROVEIN, the troubled specialist engineering company, has sold its core shock blast machinery arm to US Filter Inc for £14.8 million, some £2.5 million above the stock market value of the entire group.

The disposal will reduce Eurovein to a third of is current size, but will provide an £11.5 million warchest which the company intends to use for acquisitions to bolster its remaining components division. The new company will have assets of £16 million and will be renamed Tyzack Precision — a reversion to the firm's original name.

Its shares jumped from 55p to 76½p yesterday — the highest since their post-flotation tumble from 140p to 34p two years ago. This values the company at £12.3 million.

Bill Eastwood, Eurovein's chief executive, said the disposal was prompted by the general wave of consolidation in the engineering sector. He added that while its shock blast machinery division generated two thirds of sales, it had an erratic profits record. In the six months to July 31, the division made a pre-tax profit of only £200,000 on sales of £26.7 million.

US Filter has agreed to accept £2.8 million of debt on behalf of the division, of which £650,000 will be repaid to Eurovein within two years.

Villiers, the engineering group which now owns 15 per cent of Eurovein, played down speculation that it may now make a formal bid for the company. Last month, it became Eurovein's largest shareholder after buying a further 500,000 shares worth £220,000.

Mr Eastwood said the company was not for sale.

Regent Pacific threatens legal action over expert

By Jason Nissé

REGENT PACIFIC, the Hong Kong-based fund manager stalking Hambros, is threatening legal action against rival GT Management in a dispute about the hiring of a leading emerging markets investment expert.

Alan Conway, the head of overseas investment at Hermes, the pensions group, had agreed to join Regent to run its emerging markets business out of London on an annual salary believed to be in excess of £200,000.

However, just days before he was due to join, and with the announcement already made to the industry, Mr Conway said he would instead take up a similar post at GT, which is owned by Bank in Liechtenstein. Regent, run by Jim Mellon, is livid. Julian Mayo, head of the London office, said that its lawyers had written to Mr Conway and GT saying that Regent was considering legal action for breach of contract and inducement to breach of contract.

Mr Mayo said: "I think it is rather odd for someone to sign a contract and say he is joining us and then turn round a few days later and do something completely different."

Regent, which has $1.8 billion under management mostly in Hong Kong, is known for its aggressive action in trying to unlock the value of companies. Earlier this year it bought a 3 per cent stake in Hambros, the merchant bank, and set about putting pressure on the management team, led by Sir Chips Keswick.

Regent believes that Hambros would perform better if it sold its majority holding in Hambro Countrywide, the estate agency chain.

Move by Abell halts decline at Jourdan

By Fraser Nelson

SHARES of Thomas Jourdan, the trouser press to DIY goods company, reversed their sharp decline yesterday on news that David Abell, the former chairman of Suter, had raised his interest in the company to 4.5 per cent.

Keith Whitten, chairman of Jourdan said yesterday that Mr Abell now owned 2.8 per cent of the shares directly, while his family and business associates have amassed a further 1.7 per cent share. The company has asked to Mr Abell to explain his motives behind the shareholding.

Jourdan's shares, which had fallen from 35p since March, rose from a low of 22½p to close at 26½p yesterday.

Mr Abell pocketed an estimated £10 million after Suter was sold to Ascot Holdings for £290 million. He is currently suing Ascot for £2 million in pay and bonuses that he claims should have been added to the basic £1.1 million payoff he did receive.

Thomas Jourdan's market value stood at £4.77 million at the close of trading yesterday.

Tempus, page 24

Private investors lodge £100m more in unit trusts

By Gavin Lumsden

PRIVATE investors pumped £409 million into unit trusts in November, an increase of more than £100 million on October, according to the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif).

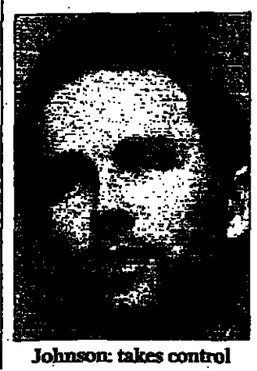
For the second time in four months, net retail sales of UK growth unit trusts, which invest 80 per cent in UK companies, beat those of UK gilt and fixed interest funds, suggesting investors may be turning to equities. Sales of UK growth funds were £6.4 million up at £108.4 million. Before July, UK gilt and fixed interest unit trusts had been the best sellers for 12 months.

Direct advertising and company sales forces provided the bulk of the retail interest in UK growth funds, provoking concerns of potential misselling as the UK stock market reaches its zenith.

In contrast, the City favoured overseas diversification, putting more than £128 million into international growth funds, three times the amount it put into UK growth. Overall, institutional investors bought £531 million of unit trusts.

Pep sales recovered to £309 million, after slowing in October in the aftermath of the Morgan Grenfell affair. Autif said annual Pep sales were fast approaching £6 billion.

New team at Sunday paper



Johnson: takes control

LUKE JOHNSON, the City dealmaker who has been involved in businesses as diverse as Pizza Express and Wakebourne, has taken control of *Sunday Business*, the newspaper bought out of administration by a group of investors for £30,000 two months ago (Jason Nissé writes).

The former Kleinwort Benson media analyst takes over from Gordon Brown, the Yorkshire businessman who ploughed £1.28 million into the paper before buying it from the administrators. Mr Brown ousted Tom Rubython, the paper's founder and original editor who is now an "editorial consultant working from home".

Mr Johnson's team is said to be ploughing "several hundreds of thousands of pounds" into the paper.

The new line-up at *Sunday Business* includes chief executive David Devoto, who worked previously for Thomson Regional Newspapers among others, and Alan McIntosh — who has worked with Mr Johnson for three years — as finance director.

The Season's Greetings and all Good Wishes for the Coming Year from

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Wall Street extends the festive cheer in London

SHARES on the London stock market extended their record breaking performance during the run-up to Christmas, supported by a strong bond market and a positive start to trading on Wall Street.

The FT-SE 100 index ended at its best of the day with a rise of 9.6 points to a new closing high of 4,087.2 after recovering from an early 11-point setback.

A touch of festive cheer, mixed with early speculation about possible candidates for the New Year share tips, strengthened sentiment. But end-of-year window dressing by institutions and traders combined with stock shortages to provide the real impetus.

There was little evidence of genuine retail support, with just 551 million shares changing hands by the close. Turnover is expected to show a further decline during today's shortened trading session.

Shares of bid target **Northern Electric** were suspended at 641p as the Takeover Panel moved to investigate the circumstances leading to BZW, the group's financial adviser, acquiring a parcel of shares before Friday's deadline for the offer.

Over the weekend, the Takeover Panel extended the deadline until 1pm today after charges that BZW had accepted a fee of £250,000 for buying shares in Northern Electric, its client. CE Electric's offer valued Northern at 650p a share, or £660 million.

Meanwhile, the takeover spotlight focused firmly on **Yorkshire Electricity** as the price surged 26p to 798½p on turnover of 888,088 shares. Dealers point out it is one of the few remaining utilities that is still independent.

Mercury Asset Management made an inauspicious debut as a constituent of the top 100 shares, with profit-taking leaving the price 15p easier at £12.36.

British Gas shrugged off some of its recent weakness to finish 5½p better at 227p after confirming it is in talks with Mobil about its take-or-pay North Sea gas contracts. The two sides are renegotiating two contracts. It is expected British Gas will pay Mobil the equivalent of £293 million for lower volumes and prices in the form of assets involving the Beryl Field.

Stock shortages provided a number of blue chips with double-figure gains. **Allied Domecq** rose 14½p to 439½p as fewer than 4 million shares were traded, while gains were also seen in **Tomkins**, 11p to 267½p and **Zeneca**, 23p to £16.49.

Confirmation that it was in talks with Littlewoods about the sale of its Freemans mail order business enabled the shares of **Sears** to firm ½p to 89½p against the backdrop of an otherwise depressed retail sector. Elsewhere, the rest of the retailers were held back by suggestions that the build-up to Christmas had not been as lucrative as first thought. Warnings from suppliers **SR Gent**, unchanged at 59½p, and **Claremont**, unchanged at 167p, served to underpin these fears.

Losses were seen in Great **Universal Stores**, down 5½p to 617½p; **Argos**, 4p to 773½p; **Allders**, 1½p to 136½p; **Dixons**, 4p to 523½p; **John Menzies**, 6½p to 547½p; and **Oasis Stores**, 2½p to 345p. But it seems Kleinwort Benson, the broker, is a buyer of **Marks & Spencer**, up 6½p at 479p, and **Next**, 5½p dearer at 550p.

In issuing yesterday's profits warning, **Brake Brothers** succeeded in wiping out all the hard effort of the previous year, with the shares tumbling 180½p to a new low of 576p, having started the year at 650p. The group blames its problems on losses at Puritan Maid, the temperature controlled distribution business it acquired in November last year.

Pre-tax profits for the current year will fall short of last year's £27.1 million with the group forecasting around £24 million. That compares with the £29 million being forecast by most brokers.

News of a bid approach from Halliburton sent shares of **OGC International**, the oil services group, climbing 41p to 116p. At these levels OGC is capitalised at £70.5 million.

Only last week in the oil sector, Gulf Canada Resources launched a £432 million bid for **Clyde Petroleum**, ½p easier at 119p. The approach was immediately rejected by Clyde which intends to resist all moves by Gulf Canada.

City speculators now feel it is just a matter of time before other bidders emerge in the oil sector. Gains were recorded in **British Borneo**, 16½p to 759p, **Cairn Energy**, 5½p to 416½p, and **Pittencrief**, 4p to 46½p. **Lasmo** also rose 4p to 237p as NatWest Securities, the broker, turned bullish. It says the shares are cheap and has raised its net assets value by 5p to 209p. The broker is said to be urging clients to switch out of **Enterprise**, down 4p at 632½p.

Shares of **NSM** were suspended at 8p while the group complete the disposal of several businesses, including Clee Hill Plant. Only last week the group announced it was in talks with its bankers to over immediate and long-term working capital requirements.

☐ **GILT EDGED:** After trading sideways for much of the day, prices received a late boost from a firm start to trading by US Treasury bonds. Gilt prices rose by up to £1 at the longer end, producing a further flattening of the yield curve.

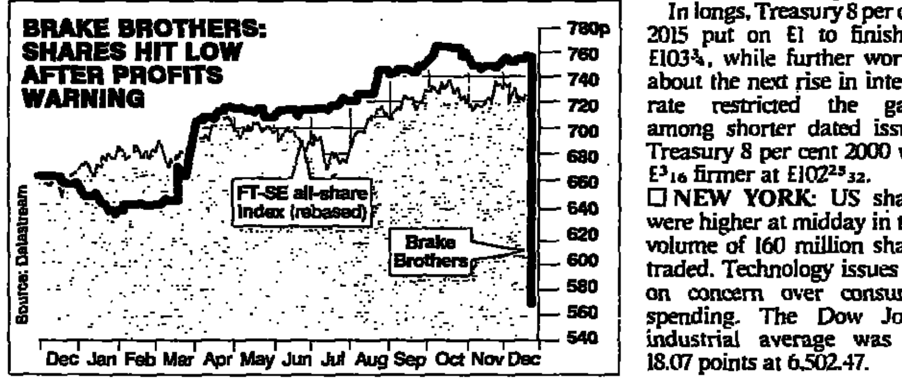
In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt put in a late spurt to finish £$^{13}/_{16}$ better at £109$^{29}/_{32}$ as the total number of contracts completed slumped to 14,000, one of the lowest levels of the year.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on £1 to finish at £103¾, while further worries about the next rise in interest rate restricted the gains among shorter dated issues. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £$^{3}/_{16}$ firmer at £102$^{25}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US shares were higher at midday in thin volume of 160 million shares traded. Technology issues fell on concern over consumer spending. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 18.07 points at 6,502.47.

Speculators expect more oil bids and prices firmed

Signs of revival at Roxboro Group, where the share price has plummeted this year from 314p after two profit warnings. It rallied 14p to 192½p yesterday, which will be good news for the acquisitive TT Group which bought 4.75 million shares, or 8.46 per cent, last month at an average price of 139p a share.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6502.47 (+18.07)
S&P Composite	748.54 (-0.33)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	Closed
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	13331.48 (+200.07)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	635.03 (+2.32)
Sydney:	
AO	2380.5 (+6.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2845.57 (-8.88)
Singapore:	
Straits	2195.86 (-0.95)
Brussels:	
General	10463.81 (-13.73)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2287.44 (+8.91)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	831.50 (-2.30)
London:	
FT 30	2797.1 (+6.7)
FT 100	4087.2 (+9.6)
FTSE Mid 250	4454.6 (+6.2)
FTSE 350	2028.1 (+4.4)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	1885.66 (-2.57)
FT All-Share	1998.06 (+4.35)
FT Non Financials	2077.47 (+3.16)
FT Fixed Interest	116.41 (+0.02)
FT Govt Secs	94.42 (+0.11)
Bargains	33769
SEAQ Volume	553.3m
USM (Datastrm)	192.89 (+1.16)
US$	1.6740 (+0.0072)
German Mark	2.6017 (+0.0118)
Exchange Index	94.5 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.3395
£:SDR	1.1596
RPI	153.9 Nov (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.7 Nov (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Advanced Power	80	- 2
Aquarius	172½	- 1
Archer Dedicated	100	...
BZW Endowment Red	55	...
Cadcentre	240½	...
Colt Telecom (275)	291	+ 4
Crown Leisure	81½	...
Dawn Til Dusk	121½	...
Finsbury Intl Hedge	615	...
Fountain Forestry	85½	+ 1
Henderson Tech C	344	...
Highams Systems	116½	...
Kern River	50½	...
Kier Group	187½	...
Linden	164½	...
Netcall	49½	...
Oliver Ashworth	135½	...
On-Line	102½	...
Oxford Biomedica	70½	+ 1
Parkwood Holdings	79½	...
Pilar Tech	55½	...
Provend (125)	137½	...
SDX Business Sys	172½	+ 2
Scot Highland Htls	138½	...
Semple Cochrane	242½	...
Sutton Harbour	125	...
Xenova	203½	- 13
Yeoman Group	159½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Colloids n/p	8	- 4
Aukett Assoc n/p (5)	1½	...
Azlan n/p (620)	¼	...
Biocompatibles n/p	250	- 1½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Aspen Coms	120p (+21p)
Roxboro	192½p (+14p)
BICC	272½p (+16p)
Tomkins	267½p (+11p)
Derwent Holdings	462½p (+18p)
REA	300p (+10p)
TT Group	322½p (+10p)
British Borneo	759p (+16½p)
Flextech	671p (+14½p)
Airsprung	259½p (+10p)
Relyon	337½p (+12p)

FALLS:

Danka Bus Systems	555p (-18½p)
Powerscreen	582½p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 27

TEMPUS

Strong man needed at Sears

SEARS' confirmation yesterday that it is close to selling Freemans to Littlewoods did nothing to help its share price, which has declined nearly 20 per cent this year. The disposal is likely to be of equally little benefit to the battered reputation of Liam Strong, chief executive of Sears.

Critics have been laying into Mr Strong since September, when he reported that Sears' interim profits were down from £30 million to just £2.5 million. The fall came after a £25 million provision was taken against exposure to the shoe shops sold to Stephen Hinchliffe's collapsed Facia group.

The probable sale of Freemans fails to impress not because it looks like a particularly bad deal for Sears or for investors, who are likely to get a special dividend out of it, but because it will have little or no impact on the group's main problem, which is its shoe business.

Sears' British Shoe Corporation remains the country's biggest shoe retailer. But, despite revamps and the launch of Shoe Express and Shoe City, its poor sales continue to worry investors. The new formats are certainly not the success that Sears was looking for and that Mr Strong needed to ensure his future with the group, four years after joining from British Airways.

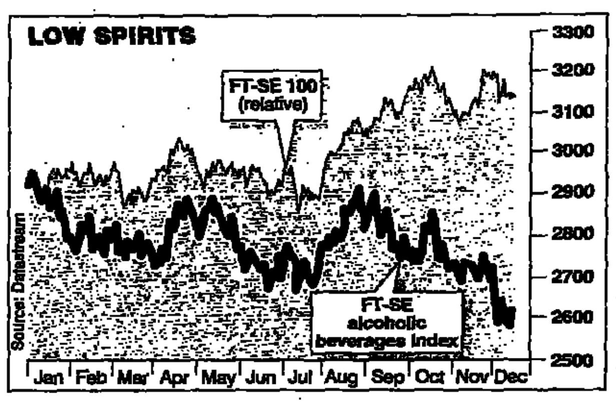
Mr Strong has from now until April, when he will report the company's full-year results, to convince investors that he has a clear strategy from the group and that he is the man to sort of the shoe business once and for all. To do that, he will have to achieve a lot more in the next four months than he has in the last four years.

Spirits sector

THE spirits companies will happy to see the back of 1996. The alcoholic beverages share price index has languished below the booming FT-SE all year — falling about 12 per cent since January. This performance is particularly lacklustre in the context of the recovery in consumer spending on both sides of the Atlantic.

While the brewing industry has recognised that consumer attitudes have changed and innovated, introducing new products like alcopops and nitro-keg beers, the spirits industry seems stuck in a time warp.

The spirits companies need to update their image if they are to attract the younger consumers vital for their long term future. Of the three leading spirits companies, Grand Metropolitan appears to have most heeded the lesson of the alcopop craze, introducing a swathe of experimental products including the highly succesful Smirnoff Mule. GrandMet's strength in vodka, one of the few growing segments of the spirit markets, is a distinct advantage over its two rivals. Guinness, is too reliant on the less fashionable brown spirits, while Allied Domecq's portfolio still looks too weak, despite its strong presence in tequilla. The spirits industry could benefit from a round of consolidation and brand rationalisation. But with all the big companies committed to preserving their existing diversified states the sector is set for another year of stalemate.



Brake Brothers

BY THE company's own admission, Brake Brothers' problems are because of poor management of expansion. After buying the Puritan Maid multi-temperature distribution business from Forte at the end of last year, Brake Brothers was keen to use some spare distribution capacity to build up a client base so that it did not just rely on Forte.

After adding companies like Bass, however, it found that Puritan Maid's capacity was exhausted very quickly. That meant hiring extra staff and facilities, pushing costs sky-high. The result, not surprisingly, is that Puritan Maid will make a loss of around £4.5 million this year.

Diversifying from frozen into multi-temperature distribution was a sound move because it is what an increasing number of clients want. And although at considerable cost the company has managed to keep its new Puritan Maid clients happy. The company is now building the facilities to handle the expanded business and it has appointed new managers at the subsidiary. However, it does not expect profits from Puritan Maid for more than one year. Its shares should be treated with caution until those profits are clearly on their way.

Thomas Jourdan

BY NETTING around £10 million from the sale of Suter, David Abell proved his ability to pick winners. While his decision to buy into Thomas Jourdan may well prove a prelude to greater plans, it also serves as a signal that the company's shares have fallen too far.

On a trading basis, Jourdan itself bottomed out two years ago. It broke into profit last year, and markets have picked up since. The market for its well-known Corby trouser press has strengthened as orders come flooding back from hotels and the presses are shipped out to Japan.

Prospects at its fire surroundings division are increasing with the recovery in the housing market, and the launch of new fire products should stoke the division's progress next year.

Its giftware division, which supplies Marks & Spencer, has recently linked up with Boots. Profits from this venture are due in the next set of results.

Any company which can turn profits out of a Floating Hippo Soap Dish deserves a fair hearing, but Jourdan's shares have tumbled just as its markets have picked up. On a ratio of 15.4 times, its shares seem good value if the recovery continues. Indeed, with a market value of £4.77 million, Thomas Jourdan itself may rank as a nice stocking filler for ambitious businessmen with £10 million to spend.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	855-845	Mar	979-978
Mar	904-903	May	992-990
May	921-920	Jul	1002-1000
Jul	940-938	Sep	1018-1010
Sep	957-956		
Dec	966-965		Volume: 2252

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1286-1285	Sep	1219-1205
Mar	1239-1237	Nov	1230-1210
May	1204-1202	Jan	1245-1220
Jul	1214-1210		Volume: 3611

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	304.0-02.1
Spot: 310.9		Dec	304.0-02.5
Mar	307.0-06.5	Mar	305.0-03.5
May	306.9-06.4	May	308.0-05.1
Aug	307.0-06.5		Volume: 1199

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 20

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	89.99	144.49	103.65
(+/-)	+9.83	+11.55	-6.25
Eng/Wales:	89.99	145.89	103.15
(+/-)	+9.83	+12.78	-6.58
(%)	-38.0	-20.0	-53.0
Scotland:	unq	135.54	105.74
(+/-)		+3.84	-5.74
(%)		-11.0	n/c

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	23.50	-0.56
Brent 15 day (Feb)	23.20	-0.50
Brent 15 day (Mar)	22.70	-0.60
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	24.80	-0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	24.15	-0.35

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	221 (-2)	224 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	218 (-7)	219 (-7)
3.5 Fuel Oil	113 (-1)	114 (-2)
Naphtha	213 (-3)	216 (-4)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	211.00-11.50	Apr	197.50-97.75
Feb	210.50-11.00	May	191.00 BID
Mar	205.00-05.50		Vol: 15966

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	23.20-23.22	May	21.54-21.59
Mar	22.66-22.69	Jun	20.96-21.02
Apr	22.13-22.18		Vol: 18788

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	96.00	Jan	93.25
Mar	98.40	Mar	95.25
May	100.40	May	97.00
Jul	101.75	Sep	93.50
Sep	94.50	Nov	95.50
Volume: 103		Volume: 13	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	53.0
Apr	63.0	63.0
May	65.0	65.0
		Volume: 4

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 79.75-80.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 97	1440	1435	1438
Feb 97	1410	1410	1410
Mar 97	1410	1410	1415
Apr 97	—	—	1470
Vol: 44 lots			Open interest: 3500

Index 1523 n/c

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2230.0-2231.0	2134.0-2135.0	Vol: 929300
Lead ($/tonne)	699.00-700.00	704.00-704.50	297500
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1044.5-1045.0	1068.0-1069.0	779075
Tin ($/tonne)	5730.0-5740.0	5770.0-5780.0	14785
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1526.5-1527.0	1558.0-1558.5	327875
Nickel ($/tonne)	6470.0-6475.0	6580.0-6590.0	86082

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom	420	22½	37½	42½	2½	9½	17
(*437½)	460	3½	17½	23	24	30	38½
ASDA	120	5½	9	11½	2	4½	7
(*123½)	130	1½	5	7	7	10	12½
Boots	550	51	63½	72	1	4½	11½
(*599)	600	11½	28½	38½	11	20	29
Br Airways	600	15½	35½	45	11½	24½	33
(*602½)	650	1½	15	23½	48	54½	62½
BP	650	46½	60	72	1	14	19½
(*692)	700	12	31½	43½	16	34	40½
Br Steel	160	6	12	15½	2½	6	11
(*163)	180	0½	4	7	17	18½	24
C & W	460	28½	42½	51½	2½	11	19
(*484)	500	6	21½	31	19½	28½	38½
CU	650	45½	60	69½	5	28	34
(*687½)	700	15½	32	45	24½	56	60
ICI	750	31	48½	59	5	25	32
(*774½)	800	5½	22	35	29½	51	59½
Land Sec	700	48½	63	70½	0	4½	12
(*746)	750	10	28½	37	11½	20½	33
M & S	460	22½	36	42	2	8½	13½
(*479)	500	3½	19½	21	22	28	37½
Nat West	650	37½	50½	59½	3½	22½	29½
(*681½)	700	7½	24	35½	25	50½	56½
Safeway plc	390	19	32	38½	4	11½	20
(*404)	420	3½	17½	23½	19	28½	35½
Sainsbury	360	24	34½	38½	1	5	12
(*382)	390	4½	16	21½	11½	17	26
Shell	950	48	72	77	3	20½	30½
(*992½)	1000	14½	39½	48½	18½	44	52½
Smkl Bch	800	24	49½	65½	16½	36½	46
(*805½)	850	6½	28½	43½	48	66	77½
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	0	—	—	0	—	—
Zeneca	1600	70	110½	142½	15½	52½	76
(*1647)	1700	20	66	97½	65	104½	126½

Series		Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
BAT Ind	460	25	38½	46	6	23½	30½
(*478)	500	7	18½	28½	28½	46	53½
Vodafone	240	17½	23	28	3	7½	12
(*249)	260	3½	12½	18	12½	17½	22

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	35½	41½	48½	4	10	14
(*454½)	460	8	19½	27	22½	28½	33
Ladbroke	220	16½	20½	25	3	8	10½
(*232)	240	6½	12	15	12	20	20½
Utd Bisc	200	13½	18	21	4	9½	11½
(*206½)	220	4	9	12	15	22	23½

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	460	32½	44½	52½	0½	6½	12½
(*490)	500	6	20	28½	14	22½	28½
Thames W	600	18	37½	47	6½	18½	35
(*608½)	650	2½	15	24	42	47½	65½

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BTR	260	18	22½	27	4½	10	13
(*271½)	280	7½	12½	17	13½	21	23½
Br Aero	1200	57½	83	105	23½	44	51½
(*1224½)	1250	32	57	78	49	64½	75
Br Telcm	390	11½	23	29	13	17½	32
(*395½)	420	3	11	17½	35	37½	52
Cadbury	460	35½	41	46½	2½	10½	15
(*489½)	500	11½	18	25½	17½	30	35
Guinness	420	40½	46½	49½	2	8	11½
(*454½)	460	13	21	26½	14½	25½	29½
GEC	360	26	35½	40	4	7½	15
(*379)	390	9	18	23½	17	20½	29½
Hanson	119	6	—	—	4½	—	—
(*120)	136	1	—	—	16½	—	—
LASMO	220	23	28½	35½	4	6	8½
(*237)	240	11½	18	25	12	14	16½
LucasVarity	220	14½	20½	25	6	10½	14½
(*226½)	240	5½	11½	16	16½	21	25½
Pilkngtn	140	16½	21	23	1	3	5
(*153½)	160	5	9½	12	9	12	14½
Prudential	460	37½	45	50½	5	15½	19
(*489)	500	14	22½	30	21	35½	39
Redland	330	31½	38½	39½	2	9½	13
(*365)	360	12½	20	25	12½	24	27½
R-Royce	240	23	29	33	3½	8	11
(*257)	260	11	17	22	11½	17	20½
Tesco	330	31	38	42	3	9	12½
(*355)	360	11½	19	25	13½	22	25½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4085½)

	3950	4000	4050	4100	4150	4200
Calls						
Jan	147	103	63½	34½	14½	4½
Feb	176	138	102½	71½	47½	29
Mar	189½	153½	119½	92	66	46½
Apr	201	164½	138½	112	88	67
Jun	—	218	—	159½	—	109½
Puts						
Jan	11½	18½	29	50½	81	120½
Feb	25	38½	53½	73½	103	133
Mar	49½	63½	80	102	126½	158½
Apr	62	79½	98	121	146	175
Jun	—	112½	—	151	—	201

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Abby Nat	750	41½	54	61½	38½	46½	54
(*737)	800	20	33	41	70	77	94
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1000	44½	59½	72	44	52	62
(*1002)	1050	24	38½	51½	76½	82½	91½
Natl Pwr	450	48	—	—	8	—	—
(*483½)	500	20½	30	33	29½	43½	48½

Series		Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo W	900	47½	70	84½	5½	28	38
(*938)	950	13	42	57½	24½	51½	62
HSBC	1250	57	92½	115½	10	47	65½
(*1293½)	1300	27	62	89	30	72	89½
Reuter	700	42½	60	75	3	18	29½
(*737½)	750	11½	31½	47½	21	40½	48
Royal & Sun	431	21	36	—	4	20½	—
(*446½)	469	3½	—	—	25	—	—

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Blue Circ	330	34	39½	43	1½	8	11½
(*358½)	360	13½	20½	25½	11	21	24½

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Kingfishr	600	35	49	54	11½	25½	31
(*617½)	650	11	21½	30½	39½	51	58½

Series		Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Unilever	1400	55	71	90	26	46½	56
(*1411½)	1450	31	46½	65½	52½	76	83
Br Gas	220	17	22½	—	7½	13½	—
(*227)	240	8	13	—	19½	24	—

Series		Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Dixons	500	41	54	61	14½	20	27
(*523½)	550	15½	29½	36½	38½	45½	52½
EMI Group	1300	84	115	135	27	40	56½
(*1347½)	1350	56½	89½	108	49	63	77½
Tarmac	90	9	11	14	3	4	5½
(*95)	100	4	6½	9½	8	9½	11
Hillsdwn	180	21	23½	24	2	5½	6½
(*197)	200	7	11	13½	8½	15½	16
Lonrho	120	9	11½	13½	6	7½	9½
(*125)	130	4½	7½	9½	12	13½	15½
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	15	22½	26½	9	12	18
(*266½)	280	7	13	17	20½	23½	29
Lloyds TSB	420	27	35½	41½	15	21	25½
(*434½)	460	8½	18	24	39½	44	48
Scot Pwr	323	27½	—	—	6½	—	—
(*346)	353	11	—	—	20½	—	—

December 23, 1996 Tot: 19768 Call: 9266 Put: 10499 FTSE Call: 2903 Put: 6884
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FTSE 100	Mar 97	4072.0	4101.0	4064.0	4091.0	3681
Previous open interest: 52656	Jun 97				4113.0	0
FTSE 250	Mar 97				4509.0	0
Previous open interest: 4811	Jun 97					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 97	93.29	93.30	93.28	93.29	6986
Previous open interest: 394357	Jun 97	93.04	93.05	93.03	93.04	2000
	Sep 97	92.87	92.87	92.85	92.87	1561
Three Mth Euro Yen	Jun 97				99.41	0
	Sep 97	99.31	99.31	99.31	99.31	10
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 97	96.86	96.87	96.86	96.86	8215
Previous open interest: 953558	Jun 97	96.79	96.82	96.79	96.82	3265
Long Gilt	Dec 96	110-00	110-15	110-31	110-23	734
Previous open interest: 136651	Mar 97	109-05	109-30	109-02	109-29	14640
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 97	126.16	126.25	126.15	126.25	93
	Jun 97					0
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 97	100.42	100.71	100.42	100.65	13820
Previous open interest: 220590	Jun 97				99.76	0
Three month ECU	Mar 97	95.96	95.97	95.95	95.96	135
Previous open interest: 27779	Jun 97	95.97	95.97	95.97	95.98	135
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 97	98.08	98.09	98.05	98.08	1297
Previous open interest: 76792	Jun 97	97.99	98.00	97.95	97.99	197
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 97	128.60	128.77	128.30	128.50	9463
Previous open interest: 90347	Jun 97				128.02	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5½ Low 6 Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: 6.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 5¾, close 6.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.58	n/a	5.47	5.52	5.73
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	3¼-3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $368.30-368.70 Close: $368.70-369.00 High: $369.00-369.30
Low: $368.40-368.70 AM: $368.70 PM: $368.75

Krugerrand: $368.00-370.00 (£220.00-221.00)

Platinum: $375.00 (£222.80) Silver: $4.82 (£2.885) Palladium: $118.75 (£70.95)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 23	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.9067-2.9220	2.9165-2.9193	½-¼pr	2½-2¼pr
Brussels	53.370-53.670	53.519-53.618	17-12pr	48-41pr
Copenhagen	9.9110-9.9660	9.9460-9.9578	2½-1½pr	6½-6pr
Dublin	1.0056-1.0102	1.0072-1.0087	5-2pr	16-11pr
Frankfurt	2.5900-2.6038	2.5983-2.6014	¾-½pr	2-1½pr
Lisbon	260.97-262.56	261.48-261.81	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	218.34-219.48	218.97-219.16	1-19ds	3-15ds
Milan	2548.6-2560.6	2553.2-2557.3	19-35ds	32-54ds
Montreal	2.2810-2.2910	2.2862-2.2884	0.65-0.60pr	1.32-1.23pr
New York	1.6694-1.6760	1.6730-1.6740	0.85-0.65pr	0.368-0.337pr
Oslo	10.773-10.838	10.820-10.830	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	8.7410-8.7860	8.7690-8.7751	2½-1½pr	6½-6½pr
Stockholm	11.393-11.473	11.453-11.472	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	190.49-191.26	190.58-190.85	[illegible]pr	2½-2½pr
Vienna	18.226-18.327	18.285-18.307	[illegible]pr	1½-1½pr
Zurich	2.2313-2.2448	2.2343-2.2375	[illegible]pr	2½-2½pr

Source: Extel. Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2561-1.2569
Austria	10.93-10.94
Belgium (Com)	32.00-32.01
Canada	1.3670-1.3675
Denmark	5.9420-5.9440
France	5.2420-5.2430
Germany	1.5531-1.5538
Hong Kong	7.7375-7.7385
Ireland	1.6590-1.6610
Italy	1527.40-1527.90
Japan	114.00-114.10
Malaysia	2.5273-2.5283
Netherlands	1.7428-1.7433
Norway	6.4687-6.4707
Portugal	156.28-156.38
Singapore	1.4000-1.4010
Spain	130.85-130.88
Sweden	6.8406-6.8481
Switzerland	1.3368-1.3378

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6728-1.6755
Australia dollar	2.1012-2.1038
Bahrain dinar	0.6230-0.6350
Brazil real*	1.7423-1.7468
China yuan	13.685-13.985
Cyprus pound	0.7790-0.7890
Finland markka	7.6775-7.7935
Greece drachma	408.75-415.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.9445-12.9542
India rupee	59.39-60.35
Indonesia rupiah	3911.0-3979.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4955-0.5055
Malaysia ringgit	4.2282-4.2324
New Zealand dollar	2.3613-2.3651
Pakistan rupee	66.45 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0190-6.1390
Singapore dollar	2.3422-2.3453
S Africa rand (com)	7.7730-7.8750
U A E dirham	6.0675-6.1915

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	623	Lloyds TSB	4,300
ASDA Gp	9,000	LucasVarity	2,900
Abbey Ntl	4,300	Marks Spr	4,700
Allied Dom	3,300	Mercury Asset	691
Argos	544	NatWst Bk	1,500
AB Foods	185	Nat Grid	1,600
BAA	802	Nat Power	2,500
BAT Inds	2,400	Next	1,800
BOC	811	Orange	1,500
BP	2,900	P & O	942
BSkyB	2,300	Pearson	499
BTR	7,300	PowerGen	1,900
BT	6,200	Prudential	1,600
Bk of Scot	1,200	RMC	68
Barclays	2,100	RTZ	831
Bass	331	Railtrack	2,500
Blue Circle	2,200	Rank Group	2,400
Boots	2,100	Reckitt Col	1,100
BAe	1,700	Redland	1,500
BA	2,000	Reed Intl	314
Brit Gas	8,100	Rentokil Inl	1,900
Brit Steel	2,500	Reuters	4,500
Burmah Cstl	482	Rolls Royce	4,300
Burton	3,000	Royal & Sun	1,900
Cable Wire	2,900	Royal Bk Sct	1,800
Cadbury	404	Safeway	1,700
Carlton Cms	1,400	Sainsbury	1,700
Cm Union	915	Schroders	159
Dixons	742	Scot & New	3,100
EMI	1,200	Scot Power	2,000
Enterpr Oil	1,300	Svrn Trent	876
GKN	1,300	Shell Trans	2,600
GRE	920	Siebe	557
GUS	1,500	Smkl Bch	3,500
Gen Acc	847	Smith Nph	1,300
Gen Elec	1,900	Smiths Inds	1,300
Glaxo Well	2,300	Std Chartd	1,400
Granada	1,100	TI Gp	173
Grand Met	1,200	Tate & Lyle	1,300
Guinness	1,200	Tesco	1,100
HSBC	950	Thames W	1,300
Hanson	11,100	Tomkins	3,800
Hays	1,400	Unilever	1,000
ICI	1,100	Utd Utilities	786
Imp Tob	2,000	Utd News	1,500
Kingfisher	1,500	Vodafone	5,100
LASMO	2,400	Whitbread	220
Ladbroke	1,500	Wlms Hld	3,500
Land Secs	110	Wolseley	807
Legal & Gn	2,400	Zeneca	1,100

WALL STREET

	Dec 20 close	Dec 19 close
AMP Inc	38¼	38½
AMR Corp	87½	87½
ASA	34½	34½
AT & T	39½	39½
Abbott Labs	52½	52½
Advanced Micro	26	28
Aetna Life	75½	75½
Ahmanson (HF)	33½	32½
Air Prod & Chem	69½	69½
AirTouch Comm	25½	26
Alberto-Culver B	48½	48½
Albertson's	35½	35½
Alcan Aluminm	34½	34½
Alco Standard	50	50½
Allied Signal	67½	67½
Alum Co of Am	62½	63½
Amax Gold Inc	6½	6½
Amerada Hess	58½	58½
Amer Brands	49	49
Amer El Power	41	40½
Amer Express	55½	56½
Amer Genl Corp	40½	40½
Amer Home Pr	59½	59½
Amer Intl	110½	110½
Amer Stores	42½	42
Amer Standard	37½	37½
Ameritech	58½	58½
Amoco	80½	80½
Anheuser-Busch	42½	42½
Apple Computer	23½	23½
Archer Daniels	22½	22½
Armco	4½	4½
Armstrng Wrld	69½	70
Asarco	25½	25½
Atl Richfield	134½	135½
Auto Data Pro	43½	42½
Avery Dennison	35½	71½
Avon Products	58½	58½
Baker Hughes	35½	35½
Baltim Gas & El	26½	26½
Banc One	44½	44½
BankAmerica	103	103½
Bank of NY	35½	35½
Bankers Tr NY	89½	90
Barnett Banks	41½	41½
Bausch & Lomb	36	36½
Baxter Intl	41½	41½
Bectn Dickinsn	43½	43½
Bell Atlantic	62½	62½
Bell Industries	21½	21½
BellSouth	38½	37½
Black & Decker	30½	30
Block (H&R)	30	29½
Boeing	104½	105½
Boise Cascade	32½	32½
Bristol Myrs Sq	113	112½
Browning Ferris	25½	25½
Brunswick	24½	24½
Burlington Nthn	87½	88½
CMS Energy Corp	32½	32½
CNA Financial	107½	107½
CPC Intl	77½	77
CSX	43½	43½
Campbell Soup	80½	80½
Can Pacific	26½	26½
Carolina Pwr	36½	36½
Caterpillar	75½	75½
Central & SW	25½	25½
Champion Intl	43½	43½
Chase Manhat	91½	91½
Chevron Corp	66½	65½
Chrysler	33½	33
Chubb Corp	55½	55½
Cigna Corp	138	137½
Cincorp	105½	104½
Clorox	100	99½
Coastal Corp	50	50
Coca Cola	53	52½
Coca Cola Ent	46½	46½
Colgate-Palmolive	92½	92½
Columbia Gas	64	64½
ColumbiaHCA	41	41½
Compaq Comp	78½	78½
Comp Ass Intl	61½	60½
Conagra	50½	50½
Conrail	99½	99½
Cons Edison	29½	29½
Cons Nat Gas	58½	58½
Cooper Inds	40	39½
Corestates	53½	53½
Corning Inc	43	43½
Crown Cork	52½	52½
Dana Corp	32½	32½
Dayton Hudson	38½	38½
Deere	42½	42½
Delta Air Lines	71½	71½
Deluxe Corp	31½	31½
Digital Equip	38½	39½
Dillard Dept St	30½	30½
Disney (Walt)	72½	72½
Dominion Res	38½	38½
Donnelley (RR)	30½	31
Dover Corp	49½	49½
Dow Chemical	79½	79½
Dow Jones	33½	34
Dresser	31½	31½
Duke Power	45½	45½
Dun & Bradstreet	23½	23½
Du Pont	96½	97½
Eastman Chem	56	56½

	Dec 23 midday	Dec 20 close
Eastman Kodak	81½	81½
Eaton Corp	69½	69
Edison Intl	19½	19½
Elect Data Sys	44½	44½
Emerson Elec	98½	99
Engelhard Corp	19½	19½
Enron Corp	43½	43½
Entergy	28½	28½
Ethyl Corp	9	9½
Exxon	100	99½
FMC Corp	71½	71
FPL Group	44½	44½
Federal Express	42½	43½
Fed Nat Mtge	40	39½
First Bk Sys	71	71½
First Union Rlty	11½	11½
Fleet Finl Grp	52½	52½
Fluor Corp	62½	62
Ford Motor	31½	31½
GTE Corp	43½	43½
Gannett	75½	75½
Gap Inc Del	32½	32½
Gencorp	17½	17½
Gen Dynamics	71½	71½
Gen Electric	102½	102½
Gen Mills	66½	66½
Gen Motors	55½	55½
Gen Reinsurance	155½	155½
Gen Signal	42½	42½
Genuine Parts	45½	45½
Georgia Pac	71½	70½
Gillette	71½	70½
Glaxo Welle ADR	31½	31½
Goodrich (BF)	40½	40½
Goodyear Tire	50½	50½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	33½	33½
Great Wstn Fin	29½	29½
Halliburton	61½	61½
Harcourt General	48½	48
Heinz (HJ)	36	36½
Hercules	44½	44½
Hershey Foods	45½	45½
Hewlett Packard	51½	51½
Hilton Hotels	26½	26½
Home Depot	51½	52
Homestake Mng	14	13½
Honeywell	68½	68½
Household Intl	91½	91½
Houston Inds	22½	22½
Humana	19½	19½
ITT Corp	43½	42½
Illinois Tool	80½	81½
Illinova	26½	27
INCO	32½	32½
Ingersoll Rand	45½	46
Inland Steel	19½	19½
Intel Corp	133½	134½
IBM	154	154½
Intl Flav & Fr	47	47
Intl Paper	39½	40
James River Va	33½	34½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	50½	50
Kellogg	67½	67½
Kerr-McGee	73½	73½
Kimberly-Clark	97½	97½
Kmart	10½	10½
Knight-Ridder	39½	39½
Lilly (Eli)	77½	77½
Limited Inc	18½	19
Lincoln Nat	53½	53½
Litton	45½	45½
Liz Claiborne	39½	39½
Lockheed Martin	90	89½
Louisiana Pac	21½	21½
MCI Comm	32½	32½
Marriott Int	53½	53½
Marsh & McLnn	105½	105½
Masco Corp	35½	35½
May Dept St	47½	47½
Maytag Corp	19½	19½
McDonalds	45½	45
McDonnell D	64½	64½
McGraw Hill	47½	46½
Mead Corp	57½	57½
Medtronic	67½	67½
Mellon Bk	72½	72½
Merck Inc	82½	82½
Merrill Lynch	82½	82½
Microsoft	84	83½
Minnesota Mine	84½	84½
Mobil Corp	124½	124½
Monsanto	40½	40½
Morgan (JP)	98½	98½
Motorola Inc	58½	57½
Natl Semi	25½	25½
Natl Service Ind	36½	36½
Navistar Int	9½	9½
NY Times A	38½	38
Newmont Mng	44½	44½
Niag Mohawk	9½	9½
Nike B	61½	61½
NL Industries	11½	11½
Noram Energy	15½	15½
Nordstrom	39½	39½
Norfolk Sthn	89½	89½
Nthn State Pwr	46½	46½
Norwest Corp	46½	46
Nynex Corp	48½	48½
Occidental Pet	23½	23½
Ohio Edison	22½	22½

	Dec 23 midday	Dec 20 close
Oracle	42½	43½
Oryx Energy Co	23½	23½
Overseas Ship	16½	16½
Owens Corning	41½	40½
PHH Corp	42½	42½
PPG Industries	56½	56½
PNC Bank	38½	39½
PP&L Res	23½	23½
Paccar Inc	68½	68
Pacificorp	20½	20½
Pac Enterprises	29½	29½
Pac Gas & Elect	23	23
Pac Telesis	35½	35½
Pall Corp	26	26
Parker Hannifin	39	39½
Peco Energy	24½	25
Penney (JC)	49½	49
Pennzoil	56½	56½
Pepsico	29½	29½
Pfizer	84½	85
Pharm & Upjhn	39½	39½
Phelps Dodge	69½	70
Philip Morris	111½	111
Phillips Pet	44½	45½
Pitney Bowes	57½	56½
Polaroid	41½	41½
PriceCostco	24½	24½
Procter & Gmbl	108½	108½
Providian	52½	52½
Pub Serv E & G	27½	27½
Quaker Oats	38½	38½
Ralston Purina	75½	75½
Raychem Corp	80½	80½
Raytheon	49½	49½
Reebok Intl	41½	41½
Reynolds Metals	57½	57½
Rockwell Intl	64	64
Rohm & Haas	81½	81½
Royal Dutch	170	170½
Rubbermaid	23½	23½
SBC Comms	51½	50½
Safeco Corp	39½	39½
St Paul's Cos	58½	59
Salomon Inc	46½	46½
Sara Lee Corp	38½	38
Schering Plough	66½	66½
Schlumberger	105½	105½
Seagram	40½	41
Sears Roebuck	45½	44½
Shell Trans	99½	99½
Sherwin Wlms	54½	54½
Skyline Corp	25½	24½
Snap-On-Tools	37½	37½
Southern Co	22½	22½
Sprint Corp	38½	38½
Stanley Works	27½	27½
Sun Company	24½	24½
Sun Microsys	28½	29½
Suntrust	51½	51½
Supervalu	28½	28½
Sysco Corp	34	34
TRW Inc	49½	49½
TCC Inds *	1½	1½
Tandem Comp	13½	13½
Tandy Corp	44½	44½
Temple Inland	53½	53½
Tenneco	44½	44½
Texaco	97½	96½
Texas Inst	64½	63½
Texas Utilities	40½	40½
Textron	90½	90½
Time Warner	37½	37½
Times-Mirror A	52½	52½
Timken	45½	45½
Torchmark	51½	51
Toys R Us	31½	31½
Transamerica	81½	81½
Travelers	45½	45½
Tribune	79½	79½
Tyco Intl	53½	54
UST Inc	33½	33½
UAL	61½	61½
US Inds	31½	31½
US West Comm	31½	31½
USX Marathon	24½	23½
Unicom	27½	27½
Unilever NV	172½	171½
Union Camp	47½	48
Union Carbide	40½	40½
Union Pacific	60½	60½
Unisys Corp	6½	6½
USAIR Group	24½	24½
USF&G Corp	20½	20½
US Life	32½	32½
United Tech	67½	67½
Unocal Corp	40½	40½
VF Corp	65½	65½
WMX Tech	33½	33½
Wal-Mart Stores	23½	23½
Warner-Lambert	77½	78
Wells Fargo	276½	276½
Westinghouse El	18½	18
Weyerhaeuser	46½	46½
Whirlpool	49½	45½
Whitman	23½	23½
Winn Dixie	32½	32½
Woolworth	22	22
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	57½	57½
Xerox	51½	51½
Yellow Corp	14½	14½

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Recipe for trouble

TUCKED away in Anthony Worrall-Thompson's stack of Christmas mail is a letter that could turn the celebrity chef's turkey green. The board of Baldwin, the leisure group that bought Simpsons of Cornhill in December 1992, has written to the headstrong managing director of Simpsons, asking him to account for some of his more curious spending sprees. According to Sandy Singh, chief executive, it is about "certain ordering without authorisation".

Free launch?

DESPITE losing £30,000 in unpaid fees for work on the launch in April, MacLaurin Communications, the PR company, has agreed to take on the relaunch of the ailing *Sunday Business*. Brian MacLaurin, the PR firm's boss, is clearly taking a more sanguine view. Only a few weeks ago, he was telling anyone who would listen that he wanted to call in heavies to help to recover the money.

STILL on the subject of PR, does anyone know who is acting for Bruntcliffe Aggregates, the troubled group under threat from rivals Bardon? After using Ian James, the larger-than-life publicist, it moved to College Hill, which was fired last week in favour of Citigate, but no one told College Hill until yesterday.

Good vintage

OVER from Vienna, William de Gelsey celebrated his 75th birthday last week in Brooks's Club. Sir Andrew Large, SIB chairman, Lord Swaythling, chairman of Rothmans International, and Sir John Craven, chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, were among his distinguished guests. They drank a toast to the senior adviser to Creditanstalt with a glass of Royal Tokay Aszu, "the wine of kings and king of wines", according to Hungarian-born de Gelsey.

A CURIOUS invitation from the Cambridge Political Economy Society and Oxford University Press. The age-old institutions have joined forces to produce the Cambridge Journal of Economics, *in spite of years of rivalry between the two universities. A CJE spokesman said: "The decision was not made on sentimental grounds."*

Winning number

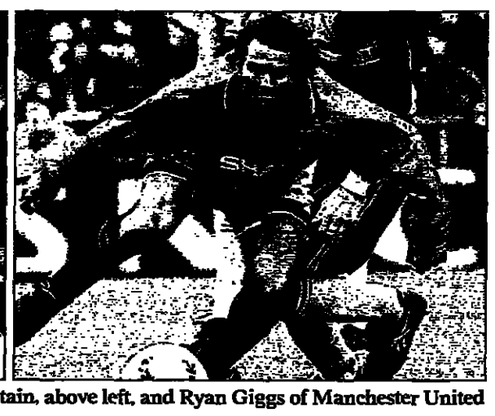
CELLNET, the mobile phone company, is issuing a challenge to find the UK's busiest business card — the one bearing the most contact numbers. Richard Vaughan-Davies, a gentleman's outfitter in North Wales, currently leads with a staggering nine contact numbers. The national winner will receive £1,000 and free use of Cellnet's personal assistant service, which offers one point of contact for people with plenty of numbers.

SPARE a thought for John Burke, chief executive of Bristol & West Building Society, and pray that it doesn't snow. This is his family's first Christmas in their newly converted farmhouse on the outskirts of Bristol — and the Aga isn't working.

MORAG PRESTON

Umbro puts its shirt on the loyalty of football followers

Jason Nissé and Chris Ayres on rising competition among makers of replica soccer kit



Steve Preston, top, with Alan Shearer, England's captain, above left, and Ryan Giggs of Manchester United

More than a million children and adults will receive presents of team football shirts tomorrow. This year will go down as the best ever for an industry that has grown beyond all recognition in the 1990s and is now reckoned to have an annual turnover of more than £500 million. At the centre of it all is a small Cheshire-based company whose name brings out affection and loathing in equal measure, Umbro.

Umbro makes the most successful replica team strip in the world — Manchester United. In spite of a recent deal in which Nike lured the Brazil team from Umbro for $200 million, with a guarantee of another $200 million to be spent on promotions, United leads the industry, outselling the likes of Barcelona, Juventus and Bayern Munich. Every new United shirt sells in its hundreds of thousands and the latest home and away shirts, introduced controversially at the start of this season, are outselling their nearest rivals in the high street, Liverpool (made by Reebok) and Arsenal (Nike), by nearly two to one.

Steve Preston, chief executive of Umbro Europe, says that the firm has yet to have a million-selling shirt, but the current United strip could be the first. That is why United makes more than £30 million a year from merchandising and Umbro recenty renewed its deal with the club, paying a reputed £80 million over five years.

Yet just four years ago, Umbro was near collapse. The Humphreys family, who founded it in 1924 (Umbro is short for Humphreys Brothers) had been making team strips since the 1930s, when they signed a deal with Manchester City. It made all bar one of the kits for the 1966 World Cup, but branded products did not break through until the 1970s, with Admiral's deal with England being one of the first. Umbro, run from Wythenshaw, south of Manchester, had sold the US distribution rights to an underwear maker in South Carolina, called Stone Manufacturing. In 1992, Stone said that it would buy the whole of Umbro for £2.9 million, and the Humphreys could not sign fast enough.

Around the same time, it was decided to concentrate on football. Preston says: "The decision was taken because the increased cost of sponsorship meant a small company like us could not be in multi-sports. We decided there was enough of a market in football for us to go for, and no one knew more about our sport than us."

The strategy worked. In 1993, Umbro had turnover of just £61.9 million and made losses of £494,000, but, by 1995, sales had grown to £109 million and the business made a taxable profit of £14.4 million. Industry experts reckon that sales could reach £150 million this year, though stiff competition from the likes of Nike, Adidas and Reebok mean that profits will be about the same.

There is heavy speculation that Umbro may float in 1997, and could have a market value of more than £250 million. Preston does not play down this speculation, but defers to the US headquarters. There, Jim Foster, the director of corporate strategy, said: "There are many ways of bringing capital into a growing business and an IPO [American for flotation] is among many things we are looking at."

Yet, with this success, come accusations of exploitation. A recent survey of football fans found that a third thought that their clubs were trying to rip them off. Sheila Spiers, of the Football Supporters Association, says: "Clubs are changing their strips simply to milk the markets. They sell more strips when they change the design. Most of the kits are sold in extra-large size, which means adults are buying them as fashion items. It would be a good idea if clubs sold the smaller-sized kits cheaper for the kids."

Chris Evans, the Radio 1 disc jockey, started a campaign against United and Umbro when the previous away strip was ditched because the players said that they found that its grey colour made team-mates blend into the crowd. This led Umbro to bring out the new white strip at a reduced price.

The Football Association's head of marketing, Phil Carling, was subjected to a roasting on a live radio show presented by David Mellor, the former Cabinet Minister, after it was announced that the England team was bringing out a new strip after Christmas, replacing the shirts worn for the Euro 96 championships. And who makes the England strip (as well as Scotland, Ireland, Everton, Chelsea, Nottingham Forest, Manchester City, Celtic, Aberdeen, Inter Milan and Lazio, to name but a few)? Umbro.

Preston throws up his hands at the mention of England. "We were under enormous pressure to change the Euro 96 away strip to red," he says. The old strip was officially described as indigo, but, in truth, was grey. England's final appearance in it was the semi-final defeat by Germany. The FA has vowed that the new kit will last until 1999, taking it past the World Cup in France.

"We're now making sure that all the shirts have a definite time limit on them so people can see we're being open about it," said an FA offical. "But for the pricing and the wear you get out a shirt, we think two years is quite a long time."

Umbro works on the basis of signing a club for five years. It believes in changing at least one of the strips each year — most clubs have two official strips, but some, like United, have had three. Umbro will pay a big fee to clubs in the form of a guaranteed payment and a royalty on top.

Deals in Europe are also coming thick and fast, although the market lags the UK. "This is a more mature market, with a bigger customer base for kit," says Preston. "We are leading the world."

However, the price is soaring. Umbro's success has brought stiff competition from other manufacturers. The emergence of Nike, which signed first the striker Ian Wright and then the whole of the Arsenal team, has made replica shirts an expensive business.

"Nike aims to become as dominant in this sport as they are in other sports," says Preston. "They are buying a dominant place in the industry."

Prices are now so high that Preston admits that it is almost impossible to make money on new replica shirt contracts. However, the manufacturers take the view that they are promoting their own brand, which is why you see television adverts apparently pushing Newcastle United, but actually paid for by their kit makers, Adidas.

However, Preston is fairly sanguine about the toughness of the marketplace. "Competition is healthy," he says. "It helps Umbro that we are not the sole spreaders of the gospel according to football."

ANATOLE KALETSKY

The way of all monopolies

Whew! The Christmas shopping is over. You have slumped into favourite armchair. You are heaving a sigh of relief when suddenly you remember: the true ordeal begins on Boxing Day. Buying computerised gizmos for your children (or perhaps even yourself) is the easy part. The hard part — the impossible, maddening, blood-boiling, brain-roasting, apoplectic assault on your serenity and self-respect — is making the damn things work.

Why does nothing involving personal computers ever seem to work first time? Why is it that when you load your child's new CD-Rom on Boxing Day your computer will respond with the familiar helpful suggestions: "Error Reading Drive D" or "Insufficient Memory" or "General Failure Error — Abort, Retry, Ignore?".

Computers today are at the stage of industrial development that cars reached in the 1900s: every driver had to be his own mechanic and it was taken for granted that even a Rolls-Royce would break down on a long trip. Yet the computer business shows no sign of even trying to give consumers what they have come to expect from every other industry: an appliance that is cheap, easy to use and, above all, trouble-free.

Don't worry. I am not about to compose an elegy for the quill pen. I quite like computers and have three of them in my home. It is precisely because I use computers so much that they make me so angry. What makes me especially angry is the way that two companies — Microsoft and Intel — have exploited the ignorance of consumers to keep these machines expensive and needlessly complex.

The main objective for both Intel and Microsoft is not to make computers cheaper and more reliable. It is to stop the operating heart of the PC becoming a "commodity product", which would allow other companies to compete and bring the price down.

By marketing new generations of microprocessors and operating systems, these companies have managed to keep the price of computers from falling below $2,000 to $3,000, despite the phenomenal reductions made in production costs. Of course, today's computers can perform tasks inconceivable on those sold a few years ago. But do consumers want or even understand these capabilities?

If you want a computer for writing, analysing spreadsheets or using the Internet, the bells and whistles provided by each new generation of machine are not just redundant. They are often counterproductive, making these machines more complicated, less reliable and slower to use, despite their allegedly faster processing speeds.

Two years ago, I put this complaint to a man who could do something about it — Bill Gates, the chairman of Microsoft. Mr Gates responded with his familiar smirk: "You're probably the sort of guy who still uses an old 286 machine you bought ten years ago."

In this, as in many other things, Mr Gates was absolutely right. (You can't be wrong about everything and become the richest man in the world.) But his *ad hominem* response did not address the fundamental flaw in his company's strategy.

Emerson said that "if a man make a better mousetrap, the whole world will beat a path to his door". By proving Emerson wrong, Mr Gates has become richer than the Rockefellers, who monopolised the great growth industry of their era. But when your children call you to fix the crash caused by Microsoft's Encarta running on Microsoft's Windows while Microsoft's Excel was working in the background, reflect on this: Microsoft's shares have trebled in the past two years. IBM's shares trebled in the two years from 1981 to 1983, when it invented the personal computer.

One day somebody will do to Microsoft and Intel what these companies did to IBM. They will make a functional computer that costs less than Mr Gates charges for his Windows operating system alone. Microsoft and Intel will go the way of other monopolists. And my brain will stop suffering from Boxing Day short-circuits when I see: "General Failure Error — Abort, Retry, Ignore".

BUSINESS LETTERS

Act places burden on small business

From Mrs Barbara Roche, MP for Hornsey and Wood Green (Labour)

Sir, Ann Widdecombe claims that employers will not be expected to act as immigration officers under her Asylum Act ("Firms face big fine for each illegal worker", December 4).

She goes on to say that employers will not have to make checks on potential employees' documents, but admits that if checks are not made there will be no statutory defence to the criminal charge.

What kind of fairy tale world is this minister living in?

Britain's small firms have enough to contend with, without the extra burdens imposed by this Act. Michael Heseltine admitted to me in a Parliamentary Answer recently that this Bill will cost them over £12 million in the first year alone.

The Federation of Small Businesses stated in July that they "do not believe that it is the job of the employer to make checks on immigration status and maintain that such a proposal will prove unworkable irrespective of the so-called light regulatory touch promised by ministers".

Labour agrees. We opposed these measures when they came before the House and Jack Straw has made it clear that we will not operate them in government. Britain's small firms deserve a fair deal, it is the next Labour government who will be lifting burdens from them.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA ROCHE
(Shadow Small Business Minister),
House of Commons,
SW1.

Fraudulent insurance claims cost honest policyholders

From Mr Piero Chiodo

Sir, Your article "Insurers join in weather study" (November 29) highlights that around 3,000 people a year attempt to obtain detailed weather information in order to make fraudulent damage claims.

Last year, fraudulent insurance claims totalled some £580 million and it is thought that honest policyholders are paying as much as 4 per cent extra for their policies because of this problem.

Sadly, many customers perceive insurance fraud as being fair. Research conducted by the Centre for the Study of Public Order based at the University of Leicester found that 25 per cent of 600 householders questioned thought that there was nothing wrong in increasing the amount of an insurance claim to cover the cost of the excess. A further 15 per cent thought it was acceptable to exaggerate a claim to cover both the excess and additional money.

In order for insurance companies to handle claims effectively, investments in prevention of claims, better customer services (fast and fair settlement), customer profiling, risk management, claims shared information and fraud detection are critical. Information technology and network computing are essential in tackling these tasks.

The future of the industry is dependent on delivering cost-effective products and services to its customers. Only when the industry succeeds in dealing with fraud effectively will policyholders see the benefit of reduced premiums and insurers improved profits.

Yours faithfully,
PIERO CHIODO,
Manager, Claims Solutions,
IBM Insurance UK,
New Square,
Bedfont Lakes,
Feltham,
Middlesex.

Conveyancing profit projection proves intriguing to legal profession

From Mr G. K. C. Chapman

Sir, I was interested to read the two articles in the Business Section of December 4 relating to Hambro Countrywide offering conveyancing services. Apart from the statement that all delays are as a result of solicitors moving at "snail's pace" to which I, and I am sure the remainder of the profession, will take justifiable exception, I was intrigued to note the projected profits of £10,000,000 over a three-year period. I believe that most solicitors would be reasonably satisfied with a profit of 25 per cent.

Thus, to achieve a profit of £10,000,000 would require a turnover of £40,000,000 which does not allow for any set-up costs. At an average cost per conveyance of between £250 and £300, this will require approximately 145,000 conveyances in the three-year period or almost 50,000 transactions per annum. This would require each fee earner to carry out approximately 485 completed conveyancing transactions per annum to achieve the required fee income of £133,000 per fee earner. I believe it to be generally accepted that to conclude a conveyancing transaction from start to finish will take a minimum of six hours. This would require the fee earner to work almost 3,000 hours per annum.

Within the profession, it is generally accepted that anything over 1,200 chargeable hours is reasonable. Would Mr Hill be kind enough to let me know where I can recruit staff who would be prepared to put in such hours? It seems likely that, with these hours, it would not be long before any such staff were unable to work at all, let alone with the relative alacrity of the snail's pace.

Yours faithfully,
G. K. C. CHAPMAN,
60 Commercial Road,
Paddock Wood,
Tonbridge, Kent.

The unpalatable alternative to free trade

From Dr T.M. Houston,

Sir, Anita Roddick tells us (*The Times*, Analysis, November 21) that "free trade holds much of the blame for continued international conflict". She does not say which international conflicts she has in mind, yet suggests a strong distaste for monopolies and dictatorships.

May I remind her that the alternative to free trade is protection, never of all but a few, which leads to corruption, monopoly and dictatorship. "Free trade" does not hold the blame for our world wars, nor for the conflicts that have lately involved countries such as Iraq, Israel, Korea, China, Cambodia, Argentina, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Somalia or Rwanda.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS MCNEILL HOUSTON,
27a Warwick Avenue,
Earlsdon, Coventry.

Meter reading for the gasman

From Om P. Midha

Sir, My lifelong observance of the maxim "neither a borrower nor a lender be" is being undermined by British Gas, leading to the conclusion that privatisation can be a contributory factor to the occurrence of insanity.

My meter was last read on 18.11.95, and after repeated reminders by me a bill was sent on 08.03.96. Again, after providing my own reading by a number of telephone calls, a bill was provided on 04.07.96. As before, it took numerous requests compiled with update reading to acquire a bill on 16.11.96.

It will be nice to welcome a meter-reader.

Yours faithfully,
OM P. MIDHA,
1 Woodbine Avenue,
Gosforth,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Pessimistic media

From Mr Richard Dale

Sir, Why is it that all economic news is portrayed as negative? For instance, when interest rates go up the headline is "borrowers hit by higher rates", when interest rates go down the headline is "savers hit by lower rates". Whatever happens, you invariably emphasise the downside, thus creating a distorted view in the minds of more impressionable readers. It is the media that encourages generally pessimistic views on news matters, usually blaming the Government for all so-called "bad" news.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DALE,
Spring Cottage,
64 Friday Street,
Warnham, West Sussex.

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Growth Amer	230.60	244.30	- 0.60	
Gryland Equity	289.30	307.60	- 0.10	1.82
Gryland Euro	265.10	280.60	+ 0.08	0.59
Gryland Expl Bd	132.30	137.10		2.57
Gryland Corp Bd	76.32	78.64	- 0.28	6.61
Gryland Japan	144.00	152.40	- 0.20	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01200 553 231				
General Acc	689.70	733.80	+ 1.60	2.43
General Inc	575.70	612.50	+ 1.30	2.42
UK Growth Acc	479.50	503.90	+ 1.20	2.57
UK Growth Inc	301.80	327.50	+ 0.90	2.57
Higher Inc Acc	845.70	899.70	- 2.60	3.96
Higher Inc Inc	460.50	479.30	+ 1.40	3.98
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	213.00	225.00		5.46
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	93.77	98.51	- 0.05	5.46
Nth America	362.90	386.10	- 1.10	
Europe	356.80	379.60	- 2.10	0.40
Brit Equity	94.17	100.20	+ 0.23	2.68
Intl Fixed Int Acc	120.10	128.00	+ 0.30	4.50
Intl Fixed Int Inc	80.43	85.57	+ 0.17	4.50
Global Opps	99.20	105.60	+ 0.50	
Balanced Acc	64.21	68.31	+ 0.03	2.53
Balanced Inc	59.96	63.79	+ 0.04	2.53
Japan Acc	39.74	42.28	- 0.02	
Pac Basin Acc	332.50	417.60	- 1.50	0.89
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	131.70	139.70		6.81
High Inc Equity	167.40	200.40	- 0.10	4.54
Worldwide Bond	268.50	285.90†	- 0.30	4.68
American Growth	330.40	417.30	- 0.30	0.32
Asian Pacific	311.80	333.50	- 0.30	0.41
Assets & Earnings	308.50	331.00†	- 0.20	2.85
Euro Capital Acc	188.10	201.20	- 0.20	0.79
Extra Inc	43.01	45.76†	- 0.05	6.00
General	284.40	302.50	- 0.30	2.08
Global Opps	69.21	72.67	- 0.10	0.55
Japan	98.32	105.20	- 0.20	
Managed Inc	48.19	51.27†		4.39
Micropower	167.20	178.80	- 0.10	1.34
UC Emerging Cos	189.50	212.00	- 4.80	
Ethical	87.72	88.00	- 0.03	2.07
International	133.60	142.30	- 0.20	0.51
Dividend & Growth	70.23	74.71	+ 0.06	4.48
Global Earth & Sec	74.01	79.14	+ 0.13	2.35
Latin America	64.14	68.23	+ 0.07	0.57
Capital Reserves	146.50	146.50	- 0.10	4.78
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2341.00	2436.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 560				
Amer Inc & Growth	60.73	63.04	- 0.24	0.15
Emerging Mkts	69.31	72.19	- 0.35	0.06
European	149.60	155.50	- 0.60	
Europe	1092.00	1164.00		1.60
Extra Income #	47.57	50.07†	+ 0.10	8.50
Far East Emg Econ	123.60	129.70	- 1.10	0.78
Fixed Interest #	25.32	26.54†	+ 0.02	6.65
Fund Inc #	153.70	161.30	+ 0.10	9.52
Japan	156.50	162.70	+ 0.80	
Latin American	56.74	59.07	- 0.02	0.62
Pacific	78.53	83.29	- 0.61	0.71
Property Share	76.50	80.31	+ 0.14	2.19
UK Emerging Cos	70.07	75.74	+ 0.28	1.27
UK Growth	55.89	58.21	+ 0.08	2.01
Aber World Pool #	81.34	82.91†	- 0.19	3.90
Ethical	76.94	80.02†	- 0.11	2.21
Overseas Gilt Inc #	50.15	50.20†	+ 0.04	7.38
ARKWINS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5866				
Recall Property #	99.61	107.10		5.31
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amdy Income	94.01	99.75	+ 0.11	2.27
Income Builder Inc	82.17	87.41	+ 0.03	4.37
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dip: 01793 610 366 Client dip: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	294.60	315.10	+ 0.10	2.95
Capital	520.80	556.70	+ 1.40	1.13
Balanced	850.20	908.80	+ 1.70	2.29
Accumulator	1650.00	1763.00	+ 2.00	1.77
Income Trusts				
American Income	54.05	58.73†	- 0.15	2.34
High Income	474.90	507.60	+ 0.50	4.20
Equity Income	359.50	386.00	- 0.30	3.86
High Yield	358.30	388.10	+ 0.30	3.90
Cont Securities	34.70	36.92†	+ 0.09	5.96
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	223.30	238.10	- 0.60	0.05
European Growth	53.13	56.63†	- 0.15	0.07
International	184.70	197.30	+ 0.20	0.11
Japan	189.70	181.40†	- 0.30	
Pacific	397.20	420.30†	+ 1.00	
Sers of America	583.50	631.80†	+ 0.60	0.12
Worldwide Asset Val	55.32	59.130	- 0.04	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	660.60	706.10†	- 0.40	1.93
Cons & Gilt	51.73	55.290	+ 0.11	3.63
Smaller Cos	205.90	219.60	+ 0.60	1.04
2nd Smaller Cos	194.90	208.30	+ 0.50	0.89
Recovery	174.10	186.10		1.52
Dist Min & Gdy	158.30	169.30	- 0.50	0.18
Cons: Earnings	436.50	466.60†	+ 1.10	1.04
Technology	218.70	233.70	- 1.00	
UK Special Sits	610.50	652.60	- 0.10	0.96
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cabtrust Dist Perf	118.50	123.10		3.04
Fourmis Perpl Prfs	70.59	73.33		1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0030				
Capital	87.77	93.37	- 0.26	1.14
International	65.82	70.02		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	355.10	378.90	+ 2.10	
Bond	119.40	126.80	+ 0.10	6.55
Bnd Smlr Cos	117.40	124.90	+ 0.20	1.79
Cons & Gen #	70.17	74.65†	+ 0.03	5.20
Europe	281.70	298.90†	- 1.50	0.40
Euro Smlr Cos	122.60	130.30†	+ 0.50	0.59
Income Gwth	377.80	401.80†	+ 0.70	4.72
Japan	278.90	296.50	- 0.80	
Latin American	82.42	87.80	- 0.36	0.76
Pacific	111.40	118.50†	+ 0.60	1.03
UK Smlr Cos	58.35	62.00†	+ 0.14	1.27
Japan Fd	557.00	574.10	- 1.20	
Mngd Fd	205.30	218.00	- 0.40	2.74
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Overs	375.90	397.60		0.89
Capital Gwth	133.40	141.10		3.04
Wrldwd Opps	221.80	234.60		0.94
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 522 4000				
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	441.90	470.10	+ 0.90	2.28
European Bd Inc	99.64	103.10	+ 0.20	6.14
Exempt	86.32	91.83	+ 0.07	2.71
500	504.00	541.90	+ 1.50	2.32
UK Gensmlr	324.80	350.40	+ 2.30	2.73
Property	247.80	266.90†		3.06
Trustee	233.30	248.20†	+ 0.20	2.30
Income Trusts				
Capital Inc	101.00	101.00		5.53
Dcpnt/Income Cp #	113.70	114.20†	+ 0.20	5.32
Extra Income #	140.90	150.70	+ 0.10	4.64
Gilt & Fixd Int	58.93	60.75†	+ 0.17	7.79
Income #	608.70	650.70	+ 0.30	4.49
Income Bnd Sec #	70.57	75.28	+ 0.10	5.20
Intl Income	71.37	75.92†	- 0.11	2.46
Growth Trusts - UK				
Growth	146.50	155.80	- 0.30	1.84
FTSE 100	107.80	110.10†	- 0.30	2.62
Leisure	127.90	129.70		1.92
Recovery	506.80	542.00	- 0.10	2.52
Smlr Cos Inc	58.74	63.97	- 1.29	2.42
Special Sits	412.30	439.70	- 0.30	1.81
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	179.10	189.40†	+ 0.30	0.31
F East Gwth Acc	288.60	307.00	- 2.30	0.25
Far East Inc	171.20	182.10†	- 1.40	0.25
Euro Gwth Inc	190.20	201.30	+ 0.50	0.48
-do- Pacific	206.90	218.90	- 0.60	0.48
Japan	125.70	133.10	- 0.32	
-do- Acc	127.26	134.69	- 0.30	
Japan Smlr Cos	58.99	62.87	- 0.35	
Worldwide	196.00	208.10	- 0.10	0.36
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1094				
American Growth	135.60	144.00	- 0.50	
Amer Smlr Cos	152.50	162.80	- 2.30	
Convertibles	60.75	64.90†	- 0.12	2.60
Eastern	253.70	315.90	+ 0.30	0.30
Eqty Income #	182.60	189.90	+ 0.20	4.20
European Growth	302.30	322.20	- 1.50	0.60
Europe	358.60	381.60†	+ 0.50	0.60
German Growth	96.07	91.29	- 0.31	0.50
Global Bond	71.27	74.95	- 0.09	6.20
Global Growth	141.50	150.50†	- 0.60	0.40
Japan Growth	177.20	181.80	- 0.80	
Japan Smlr Cos	131.40	139.50	- 0.60	
Pacific Inc	46.35	49.60†	- 0.10	1.04
Portfolio	146.00	156.60	- 0.10	2.00
-do- Accum	277.90	296.90	+ 0.10	2.00
UK Growth	110.40	118.60	+ 0.50	2.60
UK Smlr Cos	99.34	107.90	+ 0.90	1.90
Select Strategies	88.42	94.87	+ 0.03	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 260 3300				
Intl Cash Port Inc	93.19	93.92		
Special Opps Inc	59.02	62.79		
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	142.58	157.23		1.53
-do- Accum	172.95	183.02		1.53
Smaller Cos	153.35	162.39†		0.59
Higher Yield #	57.97	61.34		4.99
American Gth Inc	103.61	109.64		
European Growth	164.24	173.79		0.03
-do- Accum	167.54	177.29		0.03
Mngd Pnsn Inc	53.77	56.88		1.35
-do- Accum	55.20	59.02		1.35
Inc Spec Opps	168.33	178.12		
Pacific Gth	147.35	156.03		
UK Growth #	99.93	105.70†		2.95
-do- Accum #	109.37	114.68		2.95
Japan	48.75	51.59		
Gilt & Fixed Int #	100.55	104.19†		8.23
BURRADE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	66.76	67.62		6.38
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 827 5060				
Income	183.00	197.90†		1.86
UK Growth	217.50	229.30	+ 0.50	2.10
UK Income	152.40	160.40	+ 0.10	4.36
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Cos Dist	237.90	252.10	+ 0.40	1.57
-do- Income Dist	130.60	138.10	+ 0.20	3.62
-do- Accum	426.60	452.10	+ 0.90	3.62
Gilt & Fixd Int	41.39	43.50		6.29
Growth Unit	262.70	291.00	+ 0.60	2.06
Bond	178.30	187.60	+ 0.30	6.98
Intl Growth	225.40	250.50	- 0.70	0.16
Gwth American	256.60	272.80	- 0.60	0.09
Far East	298.50	319.20	- 0.10	0.61
UK Smaller Cos	225.60	241.30	- 1.70	1.19
European	35.83	101.30	+ 0.30	0.50
Japanese Growth	39.56	41.99	- 0.21	
High Income	229.90	245.70	+ 0.80	4.14
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American S Fund	219.80	232.10	- 1.60	
European Inc	94.35	100.64	- 0.56	0.37
Smaller Cos (4-1)	108.60	114.56	- 0.30	1.42
Growth	564.90	601.00	+ 2.10	2.00
Income & Growth #	476.80	507.30	+ 1.00	3.71
-do- Accum #	720.80	766.91	+ 1.60	3.71
Japan & Gen	55.91	58.44	- 0.25	
Managed Portfolio	123.45	129.61	+ 0.11	0.82
-do- Accum	172.57	181.93	+ 0.00	1.78
Special Sits	131.00	137.40	+ 0.50	1.98
High Yield	215.19	215.65†	- 7.00	4.24

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0706				
Cazenove Portfolio	103.29	110.21	+ 0.23	1.82
American Portfolio	124.84	131.74†	- 0.96	1.02
European Portfolio	136.27	143.98	- 0.86	0.63
High Income	52.32	52.48	+ 0.03	7.43
Japanese Portfolio	58.11	61.54	- 0.15	
Pacific Portfolio	154.91	166.57†	- 0.11	1.08
UK Equity	98.91	105.69	+ 0.38	3.36
UK Equity & Bd	54.87	62.40	+ 0.15	6.11
UK Smlr Cos	51.88	55.49	+ 0.14	1.25
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	167.93	179.53		4.36
Fxd In Sec	155.22	166.84		9.18
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	770.14	791.78		4.32
Investment Acc	1355.50	1398.04		
Fixed Int Inc	127.96	129.50		9.03
Fixed Int Acc	223.07	224.01		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5896				
Dealmaker Inc	89.78	94.01		5.33
Tech Bio-Tech	43.32	47.11†		
Acorn Ethical Tst	189.24	198.72†		0.44
City Fin Jewels	80.05	84.06	+ 1.32	1.93
City Fin Intl	88.72	93.16†		0.14
Fourc Hse Cap	316.69	336.90	+ 2.16	2.50
Buckley Wrld Gwth	135.67	144.82		
J Sol Inc Gth Inc	57.82	60.72†		3.52
Sam Utilities	61.48	63.08†	+ 0.25	7.02
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	51.78	54.94	- 0.33	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	80.07	85.18	- 0.34	
Dragon Growth	70.88	75.80	- 0.16	0.29
Equity High Inc	91.89	98.52†	- 0.03	4.15
-do- Accum	133.87	143.53	+ 0.05	4.15
Euro Income Inc	36.89	38.31	+ 0.05	7.36
Euro Income Acc	29.58	31.16	+ 0.06	7.35
European Gwth	53.08	56.93	- 0.30	0.72
Evergreen	30.89	33.03	- 0.15	
General Equity	109.35	116.62	+ 0.32	2.73
Japan Growth	40.59	42.97	- 0.23	
Prudgrowth Gwth	66.09	70.86	+ 0.15	2.27
Ped Ser Cos Inc	37.57	40.40	+ 0.16	1.25
-do- Accum	40.06	43.07	+ 0.17	1.25
Reinvestment Inc #	27.93	30.19	+ 0.03	6.01
Special Sits	47.07	50.61	+ 0.18	2.37
UK & Overseas	59.63	63.27	- 0.18	0.95
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 808 000				
Balanced	72.10	75.10	+ 0.14	4.02
Capital	85.66	89.22	+ 0.15	2.57
High Income	52.27	54.44†	+ 0.09	6.67
Top 50	58.56	61.00	+ 0.19	2.51
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	196.56	204.75	+ 0.71	4.49
Long Gilt	44.28	46.11	+ 0.02	6.07
Monthly Inc Plan	50.53	52.64	+ 0.05	8.51
Preference Share	47.89	49.89	+ 0.09	7.81
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	143.42	149.40	+ 0.34	5.71
Managed Fund	77.49	80.62	- 0.03	2.75
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	53.20	55.42	+ 0.15	1.71
-do- Accum	62.88	65.50	+ 0.18	1.71
UK & General	100.38	104.54	+ 0.11	2.88
-do- Accum	132.06	137.56	+ 0.15	2.88
UK Growth	201.90	210.31	+ 0.48	1.34
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	207.62	216.27	- 1.54	0.67
Far Eastern Gth	128.06	134.44	- 0.27	0.32
Global Bond	71.03	75.30	- 0.05	6.26
Japan Growth	97.69	101.14	- 0.47	
North Amer Gwth	240.37	250.39	- 1.32	
Ordinary Growth	83.39	86.86	- 0.06	0.27
Worldwider Growth	71.13	74.08	- 0.30	
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.31	92.31	+ 0.03	5.21
Homestaker Fund	90.31	95.07		1.57
Quitter Fund	157.09	167.12	+ 0.15	1.91
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5956				
Consistent UT	36.06	38.54		4.31
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 525 358				
Growth	177.90	189.30	+ 0.40	2.72
Income	75.47	80.30	+ 0.04	4.91
European	75.17	79.97	- 0.76	0.82
Recovery	187.40	199.40	+ 0.70	2.62
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	989.00	1004.40†		3.40
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	112.10	119.20	+ 0.20	1.15
Income #	280.90	308.40	+ 0.60	4.54
-do- Accum #	774.00	823.30	+ 1.50	4.54
Smaller Cos	234.80	249.70†	+ 1.10	0.86
-do- Accum	292.50	311.10	+ 1.30	0.86
Gilt Portfolio	104.00	110.60	+ 0.30	1.26
High Inc Port #	84.24	89.61	+ 0.10	4.24
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1834				
Euro Small Cos	1600.40	1647.80†		
Japan Small Cos	921.01	936.78†		0.01
UK Small Cos	2180.10	2277.30		2.90
US Small Cos	2103.00	2173.70†		0.86
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	229.20	241.30†		3.14
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 855				
UK Balanced Inc	176.90	188.10†	+ 0.10	1.72
UK High Inc Inc	184.00	195.70		3.64
-do- Accum	252.30	268.30		3.64
UK Prof & F I Inc	59.38	62.98†		5.87
Environmental Opps	102.24	108.70	- 0.20	0.92
UK Smlr Cos #	70.28	74.76	+ 0.37	1.07
Extra Income Inc	50.45	53.66	+ 0.11	7.50
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 525				
American	178.20	188.50	- 0.90	0.42
Convertible #	23.80	24.23†	+ 0.06	5.78
Equity Income #	144.60	153.00†	+ 0.10	3.92
EuroFund	62.53	66.21	- 0.55	0.80
Financial	57.34	60.92	+ 0.10	1.48
Growth & Inc #	295.30	313.70	- 0.20	2.78
High Oct #	160.70	192.00†	+ 0.20	4.43
International	420.70	447.00	- 2.50	0.11
Japan Inc	104.00	111.00	- 0.10	2.43
Latin American	30.29	32.18	- 0.08	
Pacific	81.72	86.83	- 0.16	
Prst High Inc	52.77	24.19	+ 0.03	7.44
Tokyo	187.90	199.00	- 0.80	
UK Smaller Cos	252.70	268.50	+ 0.60	1.12
Danelaw Unit Trusts				
European Gwth	327.50	346.90	- 1.90	1.04
Jap Smlr Co	350.60	372.00	- 1.10	
Nth Amer	431.90	457.50	- 2.20	0.01
UK Inc & Gth	257.70	275.00	+ 0.60	2.70
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 6242				
EBI Director Dep	116.92	125.02	+ 2.45	1.12
Growth Acc	252.53	275.06	- 4.94	1.11
Income	618.22	661.20	+11.52	6.05
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7201				
Endurance Fd	223.60	238.10		1.24
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	90.21	94.96	- 0.25	1.83
Ethical Tst	46.00	48.42	- 0.17	1.01
Far Eastern	250.26	305.54	- 0.94	1.61
High Income	143.61	151.17†	+ 0.40	4.88
UK Index Trking	53.04	55.83	+ 0.11	3.17
Intl Growth	138.45	145.74	- 0.61	0.45
North American	149.51	157.38	- 1.11	1.68
Pacific	148.46	154.17	+ 0.29	3.09
Smaller Cos	72.78	76.61†	- 0.44	2.52
Special Sits	89.98	94.72	+ 0.53	3.16
Tst of Inv Trsts	215.19	226.52	+ 0.10	1.31
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5955				
Smaller Cos Inc	233.94	248.67	+ 1.74	2.37
Smaller Cos Acc	422.53	449.50	+ 2.24	2.37
Recovery	57.98	61.68†	+ 0.47	2.25
Recovery Acc	60.46	64.34†	+ 0.48	2.25
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	93.04	99.78	- 0.20	
Fd of Inv Trsts	52.22	55.70	- 0.04	0.52
High Income #	38.73	42.58	+ 0.09	10.83
Warrant	43.36	47.13	+ 0.02	
Zero Preference	34.42	47.53†	+ 0.01	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	96.26	102.40	+ 0.30	2.58
United Charities	321.30	341.80	+ 0.60	2.03
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callifner Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Bond Funds	100.00	100.00		5.50
Int Bond	27.33	29.33	- 0.15	5.49
Strategic Inc	27.21	28.44†	- 0.03	5.71
Income Funds				
High Income	37.12	38.46†	- 0.02	5.41
Income Plus	135.00	143.60†	+ 0.30	3.95
European Income	50.04	53.19	- 0.25	3.56
UK Ex Gilt	32.67	34.74	+ 0.06	2.15
Family Funds				
ASEAN	53.33	62.01	- 0.40	
American	322.98	343.30	- 1.90	
Amer Smlr Cos	183.00	194.90	- 2.10	
Japan Smaller Cos	27.14	28.91	- 0.15	
European	238.60	241.00		0.56
European Opps	79.63	84.67	- 0.42	0.02
Global Pnr	30.63	32.57	- 0.11	0.35
UK Growth	126.30	134.30		1.49
Growth & Inc	154.60	166.30	- 0.50	2.36
Intl PEP	48.96	52.08	- 0.03	1.06
Japan Smlr Cos	73.66	78.18	- 0.40	
Japan	155.50	164.80	- 0.90	
Managed Intl	337.40	323.60	- 1.00	0.50
Moneybuilder	66.02	70.29	- 0.12	
Recovery	62.01	65.94	+ 0.13	1.64
South E Asia	185.80	198.30	+ 0.50	0.97
Special Sits	744.00	791.10	+10.10	0.56
Consistent Funds				
Each Accum Units	117.10	117.10	- 0.04	5.50
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 614 2700				
Balanced #	146.90	149.30		1.80
Fleming Pri Inc #	97.93	99.11†	+ 0.67	5.96
Cap Photo	160.90	163.00†	+ 3.20	0.02
General Opps	142.56	144.50		4.20
Growth Inc	37.62	38.25†	+ 0.53	1.38
Private Portfolio	476.30	488.60		1.24
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT TRST				
Dlg 01277 690 388 Admin/Fnl 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	150.68	159.60	- 1.20	0.21
Emg Asian	125.10	134.80	- 0.80	
High Income	31.53	32.81†	+ 0.11	9.82
UK Income #	114.40	122.00†	+ 0.10	4.08
US Smaller Cos	411.20	438.50	- 0.90	
For Foreign & Brpthwaite see Quilter				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FRANKLINSTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 334 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	78.47	83.38	- 0.53	
-do- Accum	78.47	83.38	- 0.53	
Amer Smlr Cos	646.50	691.40	- 4.30	
-do- Accum	660.50	706.40	- 4.30	
Capital Tst	404.30	430.00	+ 0.30	1.09
-do- Accum	596.90	631.80	+12.30	1.09
Cont Smlr Cos	98.28	62.34	- 0.19	1.31
-do- Accum	62.00	66.22	- 0.19	1.31
Convertible	142.40	151.50†		5.10
-do- Accum	315.40	335.50†	+ 0.10	5.10
Emerging Markets	58.65	63.73†	- 0.39	0.30
-do- Accum	60.13	64.24†	- 0.41	0.30
European	148.80	157.60	- 1.10	0.50
-do- Accum	157.70	167.10	- 1.20	0.50
Extra Income	401.90	427.60	+ 0.20	4.45
-do- Accum	640.00	680.90	+ 0.30	4.45
Financial	175.70	186.90	- 0.30	0.48
-do- Accum	186.70	198.60	- 0.30	0.48
Gilt Trust	63.60	65.58	+ 0.02	6.65
-do- Accum	98.51	101.90		6.65
Health Fund Inc	244.60	261.30†	- 1.00	
-do- Accum	244.60	261.30†	- 1.00	
Income & Growth	231.40	246.20†	+ 0.10	3.01
-do- Accum	373.60	397.70†	+ 0.10	3.61
Intl Growth	418.10	446.00†	- 2.80	
-do- Accum	464.20	495.10	- 3.30	
Japan & Gen	148.30	155.60	- 0.90	
-do- Accum	147.80	157.10	- 0.90	
Monthly Inc #	204.50	217.60†	+ 0.40	4.38
-do- Accum #	205.80	218.90†	+ 0.40	4.38
Managed Port Inc	120.90	127.30		1.41
-do- Accum	131.30	138.20	- 0.10	1.41
Quarterly Income #	57.50	61.03†	+ 0.04	5.28
-do- Accum #	66.69	71.43†	+ 0.05	5.28
Recovery	329.50	352.00	- 1.50	
-do- Accum	380.40	416.50	- 0.80	
UK Growth	69.02	73.43	+ 0.40	2
-do- Accum	74.84	79.62	+ 0.43	2
**FRIENDS PROVIDENT UN

Modest gains in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	414	Allied Domecq	439½	+ 14½	6.7	13.3
625	477	Bolmer (SF)	547½	...	3.1	16.1
131	67	Bush Stewart	69	– 1	6.2	73.3
875	615	Glenmorangie At	870	+ 5	1.8	23.7
496	411	Grand Met	454½	– 1	4.5	14.4
493	425	Guinness	454½	+ 1½	4.2	14.1
378	315	Highland Distil	330½	– 1	3.1	15.2
803	555½	Mallow Chak	582½	+ 5	1.4	12.5
141	91½	Morgan Wt	108½	– 1	5.4	14.4
2612½	1375	SA Brewerest	1476½	+ 84½	2.2	.

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3959½	2743½	ABN-AMRO	3818½	– 3½	3.2	14.7
758	539	Abbey Nat	756	+ 7	5.8	14.0
400	315	Allied Irish	392½	...	4.6	11.2
399½	265	Aus New Z	371½	+ ½	5.1	...
6167½	3943½	Bank America	6157½	+ 150	.	.
316	227½	Bank Scotland	306½	– 1½	3.0	11.3
1941½	693	Barclays	1002	+ 8	3.5	10.9
528½	413	Bk of Ireland	517½	...	4.6	11.7
462	360	Cater Allen†	381½	...	6.8	15.1
6693½	4031½	Citicorp	6284½	+ 37½	.	.
352	307½	Close Bros	317½	+ 1½	3.9	12.8
1575	1315½	Continental	1337½	...	3.3	...
1350	900	Del Ichi Kas Y	900	...	0.5	...
3412½	2750	Deutsche Bk	2759½	– 8½	2.5	...
808½	580½	Espirito Santo	781½	...	4.2	11.3
1607	1115	Fuji Bank Y	1522½	+ 5½	0.5	...
472	350	Gerrard Nat	371	...	10.6	11.0
267½	196	Hambros	224	+ ½	4.2	19.0
1329	931	HSBC	1295½	+ 13	3.6	12.3
1255½	930	HSBC HK	1252	+ 13	3.7	11.9
469½	365	Irish Perm	465½	...	2.9	13.5
197	143	King Sawyer†	182½	...	6.2	20.4
465	405	Leopold Jt	465	...	5.2	27.5
435½	294½	Lloyds TSB	435	+ 2	3.4	18.4
740½	565	Nat Aust Bk	597½	+ 6½	5.0	9.5
726½	605½	Nat West	693½	+ 7	4.8	9.6
67	49½	Rea Brothers	60	...	2.1	23.6
586	464	Rgl Bk Scotl	544	+ 3½	4.3	12.0
1547½	1185	Schroders	1515	– 5	1.4	17.2
1340	890	Schroders NV	1340	+ 17½	1.8	15.2
135	89½	Singer & Fried	128	...	4.2	9.4
729½	547	Standard Chart	720	+ 2½	2.1	14.0
1165½	884	Union	895	...	3.9	10.4
6174½	4131½	Wells Fargo	6164½	...	1.8	...
352	264	Westpac	341½	...	3.9	11.1
360	268	Winbrst	307½	...	5.1	15.4

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
90	36	Alnch Stk HO	75	...		11.2
846½	702	Bass†	817	+ 2	3.8	16.1
70	40	Bk for Ire Bdr†	53½	+ 1	4.1	14.5
205	161	Burkmd Brwr	174½	+ 1	4.0	15.7
138	92	City Centre Rest	137	– 1	2.0	25.0
829½	463	Compass Gp	815	– 3½	2.4	20.8
267½	190	Eldridge P 'A'	260	– 1½	2.6	15.7
540	413	Fuller Sm 'A'	440½	...	2.7	14.6
638	548	Greenalls Gp	585	+ 5½	3.3	15.8
675	567½	Grosvnr King†	648½	– ½	3.1	15.9
286	174½	Grosvnor Gms	175	...	4.1	16.5
250	204	Gaupe Cnc Sm	222½	...	1.8	21.6
357	289½	Hardy Hansn	292	+ 1	4.8	...
347½	270	Hall & Woodhse	272½	...	2.6	14.7
72	45	Inn Business	64	...	1.7	30.2
355	258	Mansfield	349	+ 1½	2.3	15.6
250½	205½	Mecca Trmpf	250	...	2.6	8.7
673	535	Morland†	660	...	2.7	20.0
188½	118	My Kinda Town	188	...	2.0	16.4
7¼	4½	Paramount	4½	...	.	.
528½	217	PizzaExpress	525½	– 1½	0.6	40.5
438	245	Rank Organisn	398	...	3.6	41.8
323½	138½	Regent Inns	306½	+ 1½	0.9	35.7
700	601	Scot & Newc	685½	+ 4	3.7	10.7
313	246	Vaux Group†	248½	+ 1½	5.3	11.8
1725	640	Whitbreads† JD	1170	– 12½	1.0	29.9
782	672	Whitbread†	781½	+ 9½	3.6	16.9
693	578	Wolvrhmptn Dy	625	...	3.4	13.8
415½	297	Yates Brwr	415	+ 4	1.2	26.8
650	425	Young 'A'	620	...	3.1	24.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
34½	15	AAF Inds	27½	– 1	...	...
202	135	Abbey	195	...	3.7	20.0
295	212½	Allnrt	286½	...	3.7	14.5
121	89½	Amec†	92	+ ½	4.1	15.5
372	187	Ashtd	345½	...	2.9	13.0
520	233	Ashtons Sytes	500	...	1.3	10.8
245	152	Ashtead	230	...	1.7	25.1
38	26	Avenside	29½	...	4.2	...
34½	24	Bailey (Benj) Con	29½	...	4.4	11.0
35	25	Bancon	30	...	2.0	20.0
263	213	Beazer Dwns	255½	...	4.0	14.3
213	163½	Bryant	191½	+ 3	3.9	16.4
348½	249	Bullmoyr†	300½	+ 1½	3.4	15.1
21	14½	Bulmrch	16½	...	.	.
648½	487	Burkeley Gp	610	½	1.7	15.2
175	133	Bst Brest	163½	...	4.3	5.0
250	175	Bwt (Henry)	230	...	4.2	9.6
133	77½	Brandon Hire	93½	...	3.2	13.0
35	19	Brdmnk Ent	33½	...	6.0	...
54	31	Br Bldg & Eng	49½	...	.	.
140	104	Bryant	134½	...	4.7	22.7
108	88	CALA	99½	– ½	4.3	14.8
20	5	Campbell & Arm	5½	...	.	.
63½	37	Carlin T	53½	...	10.4	...
109	39	Costain†	45	...	.	.
87	51	Countryside	71½	+ ½	4.0	20.6
85	54½	Crest Nicholson	74½	+ ½	3.4	19.7
89	65½	Cussins	68½	...	7.1	11.1
220	118	Ean Group	165	...	1.1	...
29	15	Galliford	17	...	7.4	21.9
907½	733	Gleeson (M.J.)	860	...	2.3	16.1
61	35½	Green (Eric)	48½	...	2.7	...
370	265	Hawtrk Ewrt	365½	– 2	1.6	23.1
163	119	Hewden-Stuart	134	½	2.8	17.6
107	72½	Higgs & Hill	99	...	3.5	...
22	15	Howard Hldgs	17½	...	5.7	16.1
145	22	Jones	144	+ 3½	1.4	65.5
140½	105	Keller	110½	...	3.0	15.0
323	244½	Laing (J)	279½	...	4.0	...
117	97	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	110	...	7.3	...
21	9½	Lovell (Y.J)	9½	...	.	.
218	169½	Marshalls (J)	193½	...	4.2	14.1
197	139½	McAlpine (A)	172½	...	6.3	...
101	66	McCarthy & Sti	96	+ 1	3.0	14.1
205	81	Morgan Sindall	191½	...	2.1	18.8
237½	122	Morrison Const†	235	...	2.5	18.2
118½	58½	Newbrn LJ††	113½	...	3.3	18.2
242	173	Pennsylvan	214½	...	5.5	22.7
150	85	Pochin	125	...	2.5	13.0
145	97	Powdrjet	98	...	4.8	22.5
20	12	Raine Ind	13	...	.	24.9
152	113	Redrow	147	+ 3	2.8	17.3
66	45	Secom Relim#	47	...	2.7	...
320	258	Sheriff Hldgs†	267	...	3.4	16.1
92	60½	Sherco	69½	+ ½	7.5	9.3
378	337½	Speedrite†	337½	...	1.1	19.7
159	108½	Tay Homes	114½	+ ½	7.8	30.0
182	115	Taylor Woodrw	153	...	2.3	18.6
517½	408	Tilbury Dougls	515	...	5.3	15.4
16½	10½	Try Group	13½	...	.	.
103	63	Vibroplant	83	...	8.0	...
117½	95	Wimpeyrnt	105½	+ 2½	6.1	...
53	35½	Ward Hldgs	39½	...	3.4	9.7
239½	170	Westbury†	239½	+ 4½	3.2	21.0
9½	4½	Wiggins	7½	...	.	29.0
140	147	Wilson (C)	165½	...	1.4	23.0
473½	354	Wilson Bowden	471	+ 1½	2.7	22.1
160	121½	Wimpey (G)	125	+ ½	5.5	...

BUILDING MATERIALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
291	204	BPB Indt	283½	+ 7	3.2	18.5
124	91	Baggeridge Brk	97½	...	4.1	...
42	29½	Baldwin	33½	...	7.5	14.5
65	33½	Blackburn	49½	...	.	.
414½	322	Blue Circle	358½	– 3	4.4	26.8
87	67	Brandon PLC	81½	...	6.6	15.2
130	108	Br Dredging	119	+ ½	5.9	13.0
673	473	CRH	601	...	1.7	16.1
48	32½	Calednian Hdg	44½	...	5.6	12.5
173	140	Cape	165½	+ ½	3.3	14.6
265½	193½	Carrdus	240	+ 1	4.9	26.7
132	106	Chandos pl	118½	...	7.6	...
57½	19	Chicken Gp	34½	...	3.4	...
262½	158	Dyson (J&J)	262½	...	2.1	20.7
120	78	Dyson 'A'	120	...	4.7	9.6
3	2½	Easycrete	3	+ ½	.	.
238	200	Epsom	232½	...	4.8	17.5
183½	121½	Fairc	132½	...	5.5	8.5
95	63½	Gibbs & Dandy	90	...	3.0	15.6
259	171	Graham Grp	130½	+ 1	5.5	12.6
436	341½	Halstead (J)	357½	...	3.2	15.2
321	244½	Hepworth	250	+ 1½	7.4	14.4
71½	36	Hewetson	71½	+ 1	4.6	14.2
256½	215	Heywd Wtn	255½	+ 1	7.6	11.0
79	55½	Holbck	68	+ ½	3.8	14.6
500	335	Johnston	470	...	3.1	18.3
65	55	Lilleshall	65½	– 2	8.3	10.1
155	111	Mickley	126	+ 2	4.7	16.5
184	139½	MacSalbst	153½	...	4.9	14.3
471	340½	Meyer Int	363	+ 3	4.0	27.4
154½	99	Newcrst Tiles	154½	+ 3	5.6	27.4
116	81½	Norcast†	89	...	1.4	.
27	14½	Rosser Tucker	23	...	.	.
223	141	Pilkington†	219½	...	4.1	20.8
239½	174½	Polypipe	234	– 1½	1.6	20.1
1156½	928	RMC Gp	1107½	...	3.3	15.4
478½	337½	Redland	465	...	5.9	10.4
123	77	Ruskin	96	+ 6	6.0	10.7
153	87½	Rutland	98	...	7.8	14.1
140	91½	Rugby Group	97½	...	4.6	25.4
131	92½	Russell (A)	92½	...	3.5	17.2
265	196	SIG	241½	+ 1½	3.5	13.4
4½	2½	Sanderson	3½	...	.	.
212½	156	Savage & Fisher	211½	...	3.1	19.1
27	10½	Sheng Rsn	12	...	.	.
230	175	Spring Hdgs	185	...	5.2	12.6
136	85	Tarmac	95	– 1	7.2	...
67	61½	Tilon	102½	+ ½	6.3	...
455	358	Travis Perkins	471½	...	2.5	20.4
40	25½	Tudor	35	...	3.9	13.7
511½	415	Wakefield†	499	...	2.8	15.9

CHEMICALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
237½	156	Albright & Wil	166½	– 2½	5.0	14.1
149½	108½	Allied Colloids†	129½	– 4½	2.8	22.4
210	123	Amber Ind†	125½	...	5.7	10.1
108½	68	Applegate Exp	97½	– 1	3.9	19.1
244½	144½	BASF DM	229½	+ 9½	2.4	...
543	419	BOC	873½	– 1	4.1	15.1
334½	258	BTP†	304	...	4.7	16.0
2531½	1716½	Bayer DM50	2110	...	2.7	32.8
113½	70	Brent Chemls	108	...	2.8	17.3
240½	192	Br Vita	215	+ 1½	4.7	24.9
162½	102	Bunzl New	162½	+ 6	5.8	10.8
276½	192	Camrog (W)	275	...	3.7	16.1
231	182½	Ciba Specialty	213½	...	.	.
485½	367	Clariant†	392½	+ 8	5.1	20.3
323	294	Coats	313½	...	3.2	13.8
317½	200½	Dalgety	275½	...	3.7	14.9
315½	246	Dist & Everett	267½	...	3.9	14.8
94	67	Ecco Colourf	70	...	4.0	13.8
197	38½	Edbrch	103½	...	8.5	8.5
55	37	Hickson	39½	– ½	4.3	...
2947½	1793	Hoechst	2525	– 234½	2.0	...
166	127	Holliday Chem	124	...	5.1	17.2
208	148	ICI	775	+ 3	5.8	27.2
283½	157	Jacquet	213½	...	3.6	10.3
142½	112½	Kalon	119½	...	6.1	...
702	623	Laporte	698½	– 7½	4.4	36.0
205	168	Albaters	191	...	7.5	11.9
100	75	Morgan	86½	...	2.7	10.5
37	22	Morgnsl	35½	...	2.6	22.2
422	193	Power	230	– 2½	3.0	15.6
274	221	Scapa†	243	– ½	3.5	13.2
24	16	Synthetic Scotl†	27	– ½	4.4	8.9
1337½	327½	Tomkins (Cmrt)	1195½	...	0.6	19.4
1133	887½	Wagnrbrge H	687½	...	4.5	12.7
256	213	Yorks Grp	238½	...	5.0	12.5
339	305	Yule Catto	331½	...	2.8	17.3

DISTRIBUTORS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
121	72½	AB Lect	76½	...	8.0	7.5
212½	125½	Aaken Co Sols	155	– ½	.	.
465	227½	Abbs & Haney†	349	+ 12½	7.6	5.7
19	12½	Alexanders	12½	...	3.0	.
173	67½	Appleyard	69½	+ ½	17.2	8.0
4	3	Arb Bl Eng	3½	...	2.1	.
630	595	B2B Enrgy†	525	...	4.9	15.4
38	29½	Bandt	29½	+ ½	5.4	10.4
115	84½	Bearing Power	115½	+ ½	10.1	...
45	23	Bogod 'A'	34½	...	2.9	9.6

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
885	635	Bunzl	831½	...	2.8	18.1
25½	18	Bridport Gpl	23	...	1.2	...
113	76	BR Fittings	98½	– 1	4.8	11.2
310	245	Calgust	307½	...	4.7	12.8
194½	152½	Cir Group	187½	– 2½	2.6	18.3
180	105	Cleveland	115	...	3.9	7.2
103½	72½	Charles Sidney	78½	...	6.2	10.8
70	54½	Cook (DCI)†	55	– ½	5.1	8.5
175	94½	Dag Motors	96½	...	10.0	6.8
183	129½	Dearnsm B	133½	...	2.5	13.4
434	328	Diploprint	367	...	4.9	13.5
487½	326	Dwnchrcnsgrnt†	461½	+ 1	1.9	28.0
314	125½	Estmdls Elec	156½	+ 1	3.7	19.8
134½	65	Eurodollar†	108½	...	7.0	10.8
105	76	European Mgt	79½	...	8.4	8.0
375	217	Evans Halshaw	221½	+ 1½	9.3	8.7
67	39½	Fds Indmos	42½	...	9.7	8.4
338	248	Firsteld Gp	315½	...	2.5	18.1
91	18½	Gardner	28½	...	3.8	11.4
91	53½	Glandowlan	63	...	2.1	18.8
94½	70½	Grentmpn	92½	...	4.2	14.0
101	72	Hawtrk†	92	+ 2½	9.1	7.6
282	216	Harris (Philip)†	247½	– ½	4.4	15.1
255½	200½	Hestlton	250	– 1	2.8	21.5
200	132	Holdens Tech	191	...	5.0	14.2
242½	133	ISA Int	240	– 2½	1.3	21.8
316	231	Jacksonrt	291	+ 4½	3.9	22.3
78	33	Jacks (Wlvs)	52½	...	4.8	18.1
260	169	Melk-Pil	215½	– 2	3.0	17.4
380	289	Lee Service	317½	+ 2	8.1	10.2
156	105	Lookers	106	...	8.4	6.2
17	10½	Malaya Gp	11½	...	7.3	12.1
8½	5½	Middlsmn	8	...	1.8	9.2
47	37	Mitchelsn	39	...	0.6	...
565	440	Norbrook†	470	...	2.1	13.0
349	230	Northumbrlnd	308½	+ 3½	0.9	9.2
172	108	PCTG	125	...	7.7	11.7
231	201½	Pentos	221½	...	7.4	14.4
342½	272	Pendragon	342½	...	3.4	16.8
211	145	Pery Gp	190	...	5.6	9.7
745	602	Premier Farnell	735	+ 25½	1.9	28.6
190	135	Quench Group	148½	...	5.5	11.0
315	185	REA	300	+ 10	1.7	30.0
3	2	Reece	2½	...	.	.
54	20	Remcon	27½	...	8.8	9.5
4½	2	Rees Gp	3	...	.	.
56	36	SSP Intl	38½	– ½	0.9	10.0
195	60	Sellers	62½	– 5	2.0	20.3
417½	248	Tilon Products†	381	...	3.6	15.6
301½	122	UMECO	233½	+ 5½	2.6	15.6
332½	263½	Vasty (Reg)	292½	...	2.8	18.7
500	365	WF Group	487½	...	3.2	21.2
50	29½	Wickham†	32½	+ ½	3.9	9.5
149½	75½	Wyko	140½	...	2.0	19.9
146	104	Young (Alf)	124½	...	4.2	...

ELECTRICITY

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
161	88	Br Energy PP†	144½	...	7.3	...
737	478	East Midlands	665½	– ½	5.9	11.1
673	565	London Elect†	663	– 1½	7.5	10.4
308	184½	Midland Electrc	188½	+ ½	7.4	7.5
615	373½	Midland Priv†	493½	+ 5½	6.1	9.2
724	494	Northern Elec	641	...	8.5	5.9
655	308	Nthn Ireland	379	...	6.5	5.9
625	482	PowerGen	583	+ 2	4.8	6.8
372	271½	Hydro-Elect	331½	– ½	8.2	8.3
394½	269½	Scottish Power	346	...	6.1	10.2
910	607	Southern Elec	778½	...	7.0	9.0
910	650	Yorkshire Elec	798½	+ 26	6.8	10.4

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
562	471½	Acatt	474	...	2.3	15.6
311	185	Acorn Comp	185	+ ½	.	.
375	163½	Admiral	357	...	0.7	38.4
218½	134	Aeneas	146½	– ½	2.3	...
45	35½	Aim	40½	...	2.3	11.8
184½	140	Aztec	161	– 1	1.3	20.1
762	469	Acktnt	587½	+ 1½	0.8	18.1
362	246½	BICC†	272½	+ 16	5.7	...
223	158	Baltos Hunter	173	...	7.7	7.9
348	248	Black	355	+ 5	5.1	...
478	363	Bowthorpe	445	+ ½	2.7	18.7
24½	10½	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	19½	...	5.2	4.4
146	97½	CML Micro	137½	– 8½	5.5	31.3
39	24	Channel Hldgs	37	...	4.7	12.3
37½	20½	Colorbind	37½	...	1.7	19.3
82	52½	Cleveleys	54	– 1½	8.1	6.2
50	25½	Actlr Gp	33	...	.	.
962	623	Cutchey†	881½	...	1.8	24.3
348	268	Data Sy Syst	305	– 10½	1.8	24.5
464	323	Dialog	385	+ 8	5.2	34.7
450	273	Domino	274	...	4.7	35.6
65	54	Dowding Mills	84½	...	4.4	17.4
370	154	Dtech	308	...	2.7	33.6
3845½	2616½	Electrnic 'S'	3421½	– 25	3.2	13.8
99½	23½	Elecsys	24	...	1.0	23.3
1878½	1125	Ericsson 'B'	1809½	– 21½	2.5	13.0
82	58	Eurocopy	64	+ ½	5.3	...
645	515	Eurotherm†	531½	– 2	2.1	19.3
637½	333	Fairey Group	568	+ 6	1.7	20.3
497	171½	Filtronic Com	343	+ 7½	0.4	60.8
298½	102	Forward Sft	128	– 1½	2.1	9.0
100	26	Forward Tech	26½	– 1	1.9	5.3
402	341	GEC†	379	– 1	4.2	19.3
145	113	Gresby	137½	...	6.3	22.1
142½	83½	Ind Control	117	...	3.6	13.0
32½	24	Intelek	25½	...	4.4	16.2
151	94	Kode	105½	...	2.1	9.8
35	24	LPA Ind	30½	...	6.0	8.5
298	245	Lowndes-Sir	298½	+ 1½	2.4	18.8
72	16½	Microvitec	19	+ 1½	5.6	6.3
472	340	Milnt	425	...	.	.
543	405	Oxford Inst	420	+ 2½	2.0	14.9
342½	172	Pace Micro	238½	+ 1	1.3	38.2
100	85	Pacer Indstrl†	85	...	4.6	...
131	84½	Pulsar	92	+ 3½	4.8	13.6
2765½	1853½	Philips Lnp nv	2400	+ 31½	2.3	8.5
229	141	Plasmec	159½	...	4.1	9.0
242	164	Racmon	210	...	0.3	27.2
219½	146	Pressac	215	...	3.3	18.0
48½	32	Prestwich	35½	...	1.8	11.3
470	236½	Psion	425½	+ 3½	0.5	36.7
348	220	Racal Elect	253½	– 3	3.0	18.7
103	78	Redman	102½	...	3.2	19.5
485½	316½	Renishaw	380	+ 2½	2.4	17.4
8	1½	Rodime	3	...	.	.
316	123	Anglovo	182½	+ 14	4.0	9.3
175½	108	SDX Bus Sys	172½	+ 2	1.6	23.8
427	317	Servelec	377½	...	2.5	20.0
82	62	Silverstone	78½	...	1.9	18.8
4037½	3002½	TDK	3803½	...	0.6	...
116	84	TRT	108	+ ½	3.5	11.4
172	90½	TLGr	107	...	5.0	11.8
79	26½	Tadpole Tech	33½	...	.	.
54	31	Telewatch	59½	...	3.0	12.2
870	135	Telspec	165½	– 5	4.0	...
245	152½	Thorpe FW	153½	...	3.4	13.0
280	255	Torotrak	259½	...	6.4	8.8
380	255	Tunstall	268½	...	2.4	...
475½	9½	Vinty	29½	...	0.7	34.7
273	178½	Vosa	172½	...	2.7	17.7
480	383	Wolmt	450	...	5.5	13.6
36	11	Wolesbrouna	15	...	.	.
172	88½	Wheeler	93½	+ 1	3.4	...

ENGINEERING

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
375	277	AIM	370	...	1.9	20.2
99½	59	APV†	79½	+ 4	4.5	...
69	31½	ASM	37	...	13.5	...
457	325	Alumasc	341½	...	2.9	14.0
175	101	Advst	134½	+ 4	2.8	...
201	154½	Ash & Lacy	179½	+ 2	4.7	13.5
638	436	Atlas Equip	662½	...	4.1	14.3
148	92½	Avonlite Metal	94½	+ 2	6.6	7.3
370½	284	BBA	347	+ 2	2.3	20.6
163	129½	BHP	135	...	3.7	10.7
145	44½	Babcock†	64	+ ½	.	.
10	6	Bailey (CH)	9½	– ½	.	8.6
144	98	Bagnall (Charles)	132	...	2.5	10.8
40½	24	Bassford	39	...	2.1	10.6
59	36	Benson Group	47½	+ 2½	.	.
105	77	Billam	84	...	7.9	...
787½	579	Bodycote W	787½	+ 27½	1.1	32.7
38	25½	Booth Indn	25½	...	.	.
28½	17	Bremner†	28½	...	.	.
130	88	Bridport	102½	+ 3½	3.4	...
1225½	767	Br Aerospace	1224½	+ 15½	1.4	23.5
291	156½	Br Sheff	163	+ ½	5.1	9.1
155	100½

When hearsay is admissible

In re Rahman

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Hutchison

[Judgment December 11]

In deciding whether a person was an illegal entrant, the court was not limited to considering evidence which was admissible at common law and was entitled to take into account hearsay.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in an appeal brought by the entrant, Saudur Rahman, from the refusal by Mr Justice Collins on June 26, 1996 to grant him a writ of habeas corpus.

The Court of Appeal unanimously dismissed the appeal on a point of law as to whether certain evidence relied upon by the Home Secretary was admissible. A majority of the court (Lord Justice Hutchison dissenting) also dismissed the appeal on a point of fact that there was sufficient evidence to conclude that the entrant was an illegal immigrant.

Mr Michael Shrimpton for the entrant; Mr Mark Shaw for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE HUTCHISON said that the entrant had sought to challenge the legality of his detention as an illegal entrant pursuant to paragraph 16 of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971.

The entrant claimed to be the son of Abdus Somed and his wife Momjan Bibi and to have been born in Bangladesh on July 29, 1967. Abdus Somad, by virtue of his registration in 1960 as a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies, enjoyed British citizenship and, in 1989, was living in the United Kingdom.

On May 29, 1989, the entrant, who had expressed the wish to join his alleged parents, was interviewed by an entry clearance officer at the British High Commission in Dhaka and was granted a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode in the United Kingdom where he arrived in 1989. He obtained a British passport on November 30, 1990.

In January 1991 the entrant returned to Bangladesh. On April 7, 1991 his wife, Rina Akhter, and a boy named Rone Ahmed whom she represented to be the child of herself and the entrant, applied for a certificate of entitlement to join the entrant in the United Kingdom. On November 4, Rina Akhter gave birth to a boy, Jone Ahmed, and he was added to the application.

The entrant returned to the United Kingdom. While Rina's application was still pending the secretary of state received a denunciatory letter claiming that the boy Rone was not the entrant's and Rina's but the son of Rina's sister and that the entrant was not whom he claimed to be but a man named Mohammed Surab Ali Talukder. A second denunciatory letter also asserted that the entrant was not the son of Abdus Somed.

The secretary of state, through entry clearance officers in Bangladesh, instituted inquiries about the entrant in two villages. It was common ground that the evidence, if presented in an admissible form and uncontradicted, was such as could justify the conclusion that deception had been established to the requisite standard.

It was also common ground that, unless at least some of the village visits evidence was taken into account, there was not sufficient evidence to support that conclusion.

The question to which the first issue gave rise was whether a court obliged to inquire into the truth of a question of fact on which an administrative decision had been based, was entitled to look at all the material on which the decision-maker legitimately relied or whether it was confined to considering such evidence as was presented in strictly admissible form.

Mr Justice Collins had admitted evidence of the village visits and in particular of interviews tendered by means of affidavits from immigration officers. Mr Shrimpton argued that all of that evidence was inadmissible, because it was hearsay and would be inadmissible in legal proceedings in this country.

In his Lordship's judgment the answer was to be found in the speeches of the House of Lords in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Khawaja* ([1984] AC 74, 100). The speech of Lord Wilberforce there was entirely consistent with the contentions of the secretary of state in the present case and the decision of Mr Justice Collins. Accordingly the disputed evidence was rightly admitted.

The second question for the court was whether their Lordships were satisfied that the entrant was an illegal entrant. His Lordship found the question a difficult one but found himself differing in the end from Mr Justice Collins and found that it was impossible to say that the evidence as a whole was sufficiently convincing to satisfy the stringent burden of proof which the secretary of state had to satisfy. Accordingly on the second issue his Lordship would allow the appeal and quash the order for detention.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that the entrant was detained following a declaration by an immigration officer that the entrant was illegal. The entrant applied for a writ of habeas corpus requiring the secretary of state to release him and commenced proceedings for judicial review of the decision that he was an illegal entrant.

Mr Justice Clarke directed, inter alia, that the judicial review application should stand withdrawn. That assumed that the entrant would continued to be detained in custody. However, he was granted temporary admission and was released.

It would therefore have been more satisfactory and more accurate if the proceedings by way of judicial review had been reinstated and the habeas corpus application had been treated as spent.

However, that did not occur and both before Mr Justice Collins and on appeal the proceedings were treated formally as applications for a writ of habeas corpus. While his Lordship considered that that was unfortunate procedurally it had not affected the substance of the points which had to be considered.

It was common ground that the governing authority was *Khawaja* and that where the secretary of state sought to declare a person an illegal entrant, he had to prove that he was in fact an illegal entrant.

Mr Shrimpton argued that the decision in *Khawaja* required that different rules of admissibility had to be applied once the decision of the secretary of state was challenged.

His Lordship did not accept that submission. The tenor of the speeches of their Lordships in *Khawaja* was an acceptance of evidence which did not necessarily meet the criteria of admissibility for a court conducting a trial.

It was implicit that the court could take into account all relevant material making appropriate allowance for the weight which was to be attached to it which did not exclude the view that certain evidence should be disregarded if it was not worthy of any weight. The first ground of appeal therefore failed.

On the second factual issue, in his Lordship's assessment, the evidence of the village visits was so strong that one had to conclude that the entrant was not the natural son of Abdus Somed and that the contrary evidence did not suffice to displace that conclusion.

Lord Justice Staughton delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Hobhouse.

Solicitors: Saf Awas, Luton; Treasury Solicitor.

Financial prejudice not established

Novelli SpA v Watkins

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment November 26]

In the absence of special circumstances, the need for insurers or other commercial organisations to make provision against an outstanding legal claim did not amount to financial prejudice which justified the striking out of the claim if there was inordinate and inexcusable delay in its prosecution.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Novelli SpA, against the decision of Mr Justice Garehouse on July 21, 1995 to dismiss their action against the defendant representative Lloyd's underwriter, Mark Christopher Watkins, for want of prosecution.

The plaintiffs issued their writ, claiming payment under a policy of marine insurance, in June 1993, three months before the expiry of the limitation period. The insurers served their defence in July 1993.

The judge found that, thereafter, there was a 15-month period of inordinate and inexcusable delay on the part of the plaintiffs which had caused the insurers more than minimal prejudice by reason of the extended period during which they had to reserve in their books their proportion of the unreinsured loss.

Miss Barbara Dohmann, QC and Mr Ian Mill for the plaintiffs; Mr Timothy Young, QC, for the insurers.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER said that the only evidence of financial prejudice to the insurers had been contained in their solicitor's affidavit: "the amount of the reserve for the claim has to remain in the underwriters' books and as such the substantial amount of money in issue in the case has been unavailable for the amelioration of losses or the distribution of profits so far as the individual syndicates and their members are concerned. Thus the amount of the claim, plus contingencies for interest and costs, are tied up with the inevitable problems of cash flow, which are currently notorious in the market."

Such a generalised assertion of prejudice in relation to cash flow warranted further examination.

Leaving aside for a moment the particular method of provision against claims made by Lloyd's syndicates, any prudent commercial organisation, faced with a legal claim which was not obviously doomed to fail, would make provision in its books for an appropriate sum representing its best estimate of the amount which it was likely to have to pay in damages and costs if the claim was successful.

Such a provision was no more than an accounting entry which was reflected in the profit and loss account for the year in which the provision was first made, and which was then carried into the balance sheet.

If the claim was disposed of for an amount less than the amount of the provision, the difference would be reflected in the profit and loss account for the year in which the provision was released and would again be carried into the balance sheet.

The effect would be to reduce the trading profit, or increase the trading loss, for the year in which the provision was made and increase the trading profit, or reduce the trading loss, in the year in which it was released. In the meantime the balance sheet would show an increase in the reserves to meet outstanding liabilities.

Nonetheless, the reserves were merely an accounting entry. It was not necessary to put cash aside to meet the claim, although it might be necessary to estimate when the claim would become due for payment and to ensure that there would then be cash to meet it. In the meantime, however, cash flow was not affected.

If there was a financial detriment, it was a consequence of the claim, not of the claimant's delay in prosecuting it, for provision had to be made when the claim was received, not when proceedings were commenced.

The ability to pay dividends might be affected in the year in which the provision was made. The only effect of subsequent delay in the prosecution of the claim was that the outstanding liability would be carried in the balance sheet for a longer period. However, the profit and loss account, and the ability to pay dividends, in later years would be unaffected.

Accordingly, delay in the prosecution of proceedings would normally (i) not affect the defendant's cash flow and (ii) not affect its profits or ability to pay dividends but (iii) would prolong the period during which it was obliged to carry a lower figure for net assets in its balance sheet.

In the case of a syndicate at Lloyd's, the provision would be made at or soon after the time when the claim was first notified. If not released during the three-year period for which the accounts were made up, it would increase the annual reinsurance to close and reduce the profits distributable to, or increase the losses borne by, names on the syndicate in the year when the claim was notified.

Subsequent delay in the prosecution of the claim would not affect names in later years at all, since they would have the benefit of the reserves carried forward at the expense of the former names.

Thus, the need to make provision against claims applied to any commercial organisation, whether or not carrying on an insurance business, although, in the case of insurers, prudent reservation was quintessentially an ordinary incident of their business and accounting procedures. In principle the same was true of any individual defendant, who must mentally at least put aside a sum to meet the claim.

So, in the absence of evidence of special circumstances showing that the defendant had sustained or been exposed to a particular and significant loss due to the continued existence of the contingent liability during the period of culpable delay, presumed loss could not be properly regarded as financial prejudice for the purpose of the rule under discussion.

Accordingly, there was no evidence upon which the judge could properly have held that the necessary financial prejudice had been established.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Millett agreed.

Solicitors: Clintons; Middleton Potts.

Prejudice to doctors not relevant

Regina v North Staffordshire Health Authority, Ex parte Worthington
Regina v Family Health Services Appeal Authority, Ex parte Same
Regina v East Riding Health Authority and Others, Ex parte Moore and Others

Before Lord Justice Schiemann

[Judgment November 27]

When a family health services authority granted an application to open a pharmacy it had to be satisfied that that was necessary and desirable in order to secure an adequate provision of dispensing services by a closed group of persons which did not include doctors.

Therefore, the possible closure of a surgery as the result of such a grant was not a matter which the authority was obliged to consider. There was no clear legislative intent, under the controlled localities regime, to take into account, when considering applications by persons already on the list, prejudice to the proper provision of medical services.

Lord Justice Schiemann, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, so held when refusing:

(i) an application by Dr Moore, Dr Marsden and Dr Robinson for judicial review of a decision of the former Humberside FHSA on February 1, 1996 to grant an application by Mr Crump and Mr Watson to provide pharmaceutical services in Holme-on-Spalding Moor;

(ii) an application by Dr Worthington for judicial review of a decision of the former Staffordshire FHSA on January 27, 1995 not to comply with regulation 12 of the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations (SI 1992 No 662) when determining an application by Mr Morjaria for consent to provide pharmaceutical services from additional premises in a controlled locality; and a related decision of the Family Health Services Appeal Authority on February 1, 1996 allowing an appeal by Mr Morjaria.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Miss Helen Mountfield for Dr Moore and Dr Worthington; Mr Timothy Dutton and Mr Andrew Peebles for Humberside FHSA; Mr Duncan and Miss Jane Oldham for the pharmacists.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said the applications arose out of disputes between doctors and pharmacists as to whether pharmacists should be allowed to dispense medicines in rural areas where doctors had permission to prescribe and dispense medicines.

The present proceedings arose indirectly from an exception whereby doctors with outline consent from the FHSA might wish to dispense to patients resident in a controlled locality at a distance of more than one mile from a pharmacy.

Under regulation 12 of the 1992 Regulations they could only obtain outline consent after the FHSA had taken into account any prejudice to pharmaceutical services or general medical services. The chemists thus obtained a degree of protection from competition from the doctors.

Under regulation 4 chemists could only dispense if they were on a pharmaceutical list prepared by the FHSA and it was common ground that when considering an application by a chemist to be included in the list there was no obligation on the FHSA to consider whether the grant of an application would prejudice the provision of medical services.

It was submitted by Mr Beloff that when considering such an application by a chemist the FHSA was entitled as a matter of construction of regulation 4(4) to consider the position of doctors either because it was relevant to what was desirable or because regulation 4(4), while making satisfaction of the matters therein set out a precondition for the grant of a chemist's application, still left room for the consideration by the FHSA of other matters.

As to the first part of the submission his Lordship said that it was clear that the regulation did not require consideration of desirability in the abstract but desirability in order to secure a specific end which had nothing to do with doctors.

As to the second part of the submission, his Lordship accepted the reasoning of Mr Justice Carnwath in *R v North Yorkshire FHSA, Ex parte Wilson* (*The Times* June 28, 1996) where he said that it was implicit in the scheme of the regulations that it was desirable for pharmaceutical services to be provided by pharmacists and that provision by doctors was the exception.

It was not, he said, part of the scheme of those regulations, or indeed of the statute, that pharmaceutical services should be relied upon to provide financial underpinning for medical services, which were intended to be financed in other ways.

The FHSA was correct to direct its mind to the issues raised by regulation 4(4) without regard to the arguments as to prejudice to medical services in the area.

A third submission put by the doctors had not been made to Mr Justice Carnwath. They argued that when considering an application by a chemist who was already on the pharmaceutical list the FHSA was bound to consider prejudice to the proper provision of general medical services in any locality.

His Lordship said that the obvious difficulty with that submission was that regulation 11(1) referred on its face to an application under regulation 4(2)(a) and that paragraph only dealt with a person "who wishes to be included in a pharmaceutical list". Thus it appeared that the regulation dealt with applications for inclusion in the pharmaceutical lists in respect of controlled localities and did not deal with people already on the list.

It was submitted for the doctors that the court could and should construe regulation 11(1) as though the reference to paragraph (a) of regulation 4(2) had been inserted in error and could be ignored.

After noting in that context that the secretary of state had declined requests by the BMA to amend the legislation in a manner favourable to the doctors, his Lordship said that the general principle must be that the court would follow the clear wording of the legislation. The present wording was clear.

There was no clear wording with which regulation 11(1) was inconsistent. In those circumstances the court had no power, still less a duty to rectify so as to strike out part of the wording.

Solicitors: Lockharts; Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave, Sheffield; Charles Russell.

Plaintiff failed to intervene

Corporacion Nacional del Cobre de Chile v Sogemin Metals Ltd and Others

Before Mr Justice Carnwath

[Judgment November 18]

In an action based on the alleged bribery of the plaintiffs' employee by the defendants, neither in law nor in equity did the defendants' liability fall to be extinguished or reduced if it was shown that the plaintiffs had had the opportunity to discover and investigate the alleged bribery but had failed to take it.

Mr Justice Carnwath so held in the Chancery Division when allowing a motion by the plaintiffs, Corporacion Nacional del Cobre de Chile ("Codelco") to strike out paragraphs of the defence of Sogemin Metals Ltd, Sogemin Metals Inc, Mr David A. Davis and Mr Paul Tweddle Risso.

Mr Ian Geering, QC and Mr Anthony de Garr Robinson for the plaintiffs; Mr Charles Falconer, QC and Miss Roxanne Ismail for the first three defendants.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that Codelco was owned by the Republic of Chile. It was the largest copper producer in the world and was a substantial trader in metal futures.

The first defendant was a United Kingdom based commodity broker which did business with Codelco between 1989 and 1994. The second defendant was an associated United States company and the third defendant was an employee of the second defendant. The fourth defendant had not entered an appearance.

Codelco claimed that the defendants were party to a conspiracy to bribe Mr Juan Pablo Davila, the head of Codelco's futures department between 1989 and 1994, by payments made via its representatives in Chile, to enter into a number of contracts and to do so on "unfavourable or off-market terms and/or terms which included excessive or unnecessary commissions or charges".

The defendants admitted having made payments to representatives in Chile, but denied that it was party to or had knowledge of any bribery. They denied the contracts were unfavourable or off-market or included such commissions or charges.

In law the plaintiffs made a restitutionary claim in respect of the value of the bribes and sought damages for fraud, conspiracy and procuring breach of contract.

In equity they claimed that the defendants were liable to account to them for the payments as constructive trustees, and also for profits made on the contracts. They relied on the defendants' alleged "dishonest" assistance in breach of trust.

Before it could be decided fairly whether part of pleadings disclosed a valid defence it was necessary to work out what precisely it meant. The defendants could not improve their position by a smokescreen of obscurity.

What the paragraphs in the defence came down to was a plea that simply because officers and employees of Codelco were aware of the relationship between Sogemin and Codelco, and Mr Davila's trading was overseen by a committee within Codelco, Codelco was at least partly responsible for its own losses.

In effect they said that Codelco had the opportunity to investigate and failed to take it but not that they were put on notice in any way of any irregularity.

The plaintiffs submitted that such an assertion did not add up to a defence to a claim based on fraud, whether at law or in equity. They relied principally on the judgment of Mr Justice Mummery in *Alliance and Leicester Building Society v Edgestop Ltd* ([1993] 1 WLR 1462) where he had held that contributory negligence was not a defence to deceit.

His Lordship said that that was a fully argued and consistent judgment and it would not be appropriate to depart from it.

In *Gran Gelato Ltd v Richcliff (Group) Ltd* ([1992] Ch 560) contributory negligence was held to be in principle available as a defence to a claim under the Misrepresentation Act 1967.

But his Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Mummery in the *Alliance and Leicester* case that the decision in the *Gelato* case rested on analogy with negligence and did not affect arguments in respect of deceit, or the principle that "carelessness in not making inquiries provides no answer to a claim that the plaintiff has done that which the representor intended that he should do".

In regard to the claim in equity, in the case of *Barton v Armstrong* ([1976] AC 104) where the defendant sought to avoid deeds relating to sale of shares on the grounds of coercion, it was held that the equitable rule which enabled a contract entered into as a result of fraudulent misrepresentation to be set aside applied in cases of duress.

However, there appeared to be no direct authority on the availability of contributory negligence, or its equivalent in equity, as a defence to a claim based on bribery, as opposed to deceit or duress.

But his Lordship could see no sensible reason for drawing a distinction. If the defendants had dishonestly induced the plaintiffs' employee to act to the plaintiffs' disadvantage, it should not matter whether he had done so by deception, by threats or by bribery.

As in the case of deceit, the defendant could not reduce his responsibility merely because the plaintiff had the opportunity to intervene but failed to take it.

There needed to be something more: something to put him on notice of the dishonesty and a consequent failure by him of reasonable prudence. There was nothing of that kind pleaded in the defence.

There was no allegation that the the plaintiff knew or had reason to suspect dishonesty or of conduct so egregious that he was the author of his own misfortune. If that sort of allegation was to be made, it had to be pleaded.

The mere fact that the plaintiff had the opportunity to discover the fraud and failed to take it was not a defence or a ground for reducing damages and the impugned paragraphs of the defence should be struck out.

Solicitors: Herbert Smith; Simmons & Simmons.

Responsibility of medical referee

Regina v Milling, Ex parte West Yorkshire Police Authority

Before Mr Justice Scott Baker

[Judgment November 11]

A medical referee deciding whether a former police officer was totally disabled and incapable of earning any money in any employment was required to direct his attention to whether the disability completely destroyed all earning capacity or whether the officer could earn money from some other employment.

Mr Justice Scott Baker so stated in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judicial review by the West Yorkshire Police Authority against a decision of Mr A. Milling, medical referee, that former police officer Steven Pollard was totally and permanently disabled and incapable of earning any money in any employment within the meaning of regulation 3(2)(a)(iii) of the Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations (SI 1987 No 156).

Mr Pollard was injured on duty in 1983 and medically retired with a pension in 1985. He was assessed as having 50 per cent disability for life by a doctor on behalf of the Department of Social Security in 1990. He subsequently claimed total disablement and entitlement to a disablement gratuity under regulation 4 of the 1987 Regulations. The matter was referred to the medical referee.

Mr David Mitchell for the police authority; Mr Philip Moon for Mr Milling; Mr Benedict Patten for Mr Pollard as interested party.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that the medical referee had to consider the definition of "totally disabled" within regulation 3(2)(a)(iii). He had to ask himself whether Mr Pollard was "incapable" by reason of disablement "of earning any money in any employment". It was a simple English expression. The broad question was left to the medical referee.

The police authority submitted that the expression should be construed tightly and strictly. It was a payment on top of the ordinary pension.

The medical referee and Mr Pollard had argued for a wider construction. The medical referee suggested that the words envisaged an employer/employee relationship and not self-employed status. Earning and employment connoted receipt of income in relation to services. The picture was one of earning rather than a one-off payment.

In his Lordship's judgment, the critical word was "any" qualifying both money and employment. The medical referee was required to direct his attention to whether the former officer's disability completely destroyed his earning capacity.

If he was capable of earning some money from some employment then he could not qualify as totally disabled. It was not helpful to try to distinguish between employment and self-employment. The decision was a matter for the medical referee on the facts.

In his Lordship's judgment, the concept of total disablement in the 1987 Regulations was different from its general sense. The regulations were directed to a person's earning capacity and not his ability to do other tasks.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard, Hussain & Singh, Manchester; Hempsons, Manchester; Russell Jones & Walker, Manchester.

Power to extend time for challenge to arrangement

Tager v Westpac Banking Corporation and Others

Before Judge Weeks, QC

[Judgment November 12]

The court had jurisdiction to extend the period of 28 days provided by section 262 of the Insolvency Act 1986 for challenging the decision of a creditors' meeting convened to consider a debtor's proposed voluntary arrangement with his creditors and the same period provided by rule 5.17 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925) for appealing the decision of the chairman of the meeting.

Judge John Weeks, QC, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved judgment on an application by Osias Tager for, inter alia, an order pursuant to section 376 of the 1986 Act that the time within which he might make (i) an application under section 262 of that Act and (ii) an application by way of an appeal pursuant to rule 5.17(5) of the 1986 Rules should be extended.

The respondents to the application were Westpac Banking Corporation, Arab Bank, plc and other creditors.

Mr Glen Davis for Mr Tager; Mr Robin Knowles for the creditors.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Mr Tager had debts of over £30 million arising from guarantees which he had given in respect of commercial loans to various property companies. He was unable to pay his debts in full and proposed an individual voluntary arrangement with his creditors.

After the creditors met to consider his proposal for a voluntary arrangement, the chairman's report was filed on December 18, 1995. On February 27, 1996 Mr Tager made an application under section 262 of the 1986 Act for a declaration that there had been a material irregularity at the meeting.

Section 262 of the 1986 Act provided: "(3) An application under this section shall not be made after the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the day on which the report of the creditors' meeting was made to the court under section 259."

The period for challenging the meeting's decision under the Act was therefore the same as the period for appealing the chairman's decision under rule 5.17.

Section 262 fell into the second group of parts in the Insolvency Act as did section 376 which provided: "Whereby any provision in this group of parts or by the rules the time for doing anything is limited, the court may extend the time either before or after it has expired, on such terms, if any, as it thinks fit."

Left to his own devices, without assistance from authority, his Lordship would have regarded both section 262(3) of the Act and rule 5.17(8) as being provisions by which the time for doing something was limited and concluded that the term of 28 days could therefore be extended by the court if it thought fit under section 376.

It was, however, agreed by both sides that the Act had to be construed in the context of its underlying purpose. The problem was that there was an inherent conflict between section 262, standing alone, which sought to achieve finality and certainty, and section 376 which introduced an element of flexibility and discretion.

In the field of bankruptcy, there might be an inherent tension between the interests of the debtor and the interests of the creditors as well as the age-old conflict between certainty and justice.

Mr Knowles submitted that there were two reasons for rejecting the argument that time could be extended under section 376. One was that section 262(3) was couched in negative terms: "An application shall not be made . . ." as was rule 5.17(8).

Other provisions in the rules which imposed a time limit on appeals or applications were formed in positive terms: for example rule 7.47(4), relating to the rescission of winding-up orders, and rule 7.50 relating to appeals against decisions of the secretary of state.

His Lordship regarded that as a distinction without a difference and was fortified in that conclusion by authority on certain words in the Bankruptcy Act 1914 to which he felt entitled to refer given Mr Justice Hoffmann's remarks in *In re a Debtor (No 784 of 1991)* ([1992] Ch 554, 558).

If Parliament had intended in 1986 that the limits in respect of decisions at a creditors' meeting in a proposed individual voluntary arrangement should be inviolable, then the course to adopt was not to retain that negative wording and to introduce positive wording for other time limits but to strengthen the negative wording by making it clear that the power to extend did not apply.

The other point advanced for not construing section 376 as inapplicable to the time limits in section 262 and rule 5.17(8) was that to do so would create an anomalous distinction between individual voluntary arrangements and company voluntary arrangements.

Company voluntary arrangements were dealt with in Part I of the first group of parts in the 1986 Act and in section 6(3) there was a similar time limit of 28 days for the making of the statutory applications to the court. There was, however, no provision in the first group of parts corresponding to section 376 in the second group of parts.

Extension of time was dealt with in the 1986 Rules under rule 4.3 which provided: "Whereby any provision of the Act or rules about winding up, the time for doing anything is limited, the court may extend the time, either before or after it has expired, on such terms, if any, as it thinks fit."

That power had been extended to administrations but it did not apply to company voluntary arrangements. The anomaly here was explicable for historical reasons. Section 376 had its origins in section 105(4) of the Bankruptcy Act 1883 which was repeated word for word without some capital letters in section 109(4) of the 1914 Act.

The Companies Acts never had any similar general power to extend time. Whether the extension of the power in rule 4.3 to winding up was deliberate or accidental his Lordship did not know.

But he did not think he would be justified by the apparent difference in treatment of company voluntary arrangements and individual voluntary arrangements into torturing the clear wording of section 376 so as to preclude appeals relating to individual voluntary arrangements.

He therefore concluded that there was jurisdiction to extend time. In exercising it he considered the circumstances and the fact that the delay of two months was not long and had no hesitation in using the power in section 376 to extend the time.

Solicitors: Isadore Goldman; Clifford Chance and Frere Cholmely Bischoff.

Corrections

In *Jones v Tower Boot Co Ltd* (*The Times* December 16) the composition of the Employment Appeal Tribunal appealed from was Mr Justice Buckley, Mr A. C. Blyghton and Dr D. Grieves.

In *R v MAFF, Ex parte First City Trading and Others* (*The Times* December 20) Mr Peter Duffy also appeared with Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, for MAFF.

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LAW

● NEXT WEEK: WHO SAYS FINDERS-KEEPERS?

Won't get fooled again

Firms hard hit by the recession have become twice shy, says Edward Fennell

What has 1996 been like for the top commercial law firms? One revealing insight comes from recent stories in the legal press of partners quitting bluechip firms because of the level of overwork and stress. Both Slaughter & May and Simmons & Simmons have suffered in this way, and complaints of excessive work can be found in many City practices.

The fact that people are starting to "leave the kitchen" shows just how hot commercial law has become. During the past year the temperature has been raised: now that the recession is over, the level of transactions is high.

Terence Kyle, the managing partner of Linklaters & Paines, says: "The real question is not where the work is going to come from but how to attract the most interesting transactions and how to carry them out most effectively."

However weighed down with work they may be, though, firms are not rushing to recruit *en masse*. The danger of over-recruitment has been remembered from the 1980s, and most managing partners are trying to squeeze ever greater productivity out of their teams. But with endless weekend work, it is not surprising that some senior lawyers now want out.

Nick Barwood, of Hepherd Winstanley & Pugh in Southampton, says he is receiving applications from London lawyers who want to escape the pressure of the City and still do high-quality work.

> 'The good solicitors are working long hours'

His firm, with its long-standing links to B&Q, carved out a national reputation by leading the fight on Sunday trading and now has a retail practice to match that of any London outfit.

But even Hepherds is adamant that it will not recruit just to increase its head count. "Our reputation is based on specialist expertise and we do not want to dilute that," Mr Barwood says.

The result is that good firms in the regional centres, just as much as in London, are working ever longer hours. Stephen Mayson, a management consultant, says that the increased activity is simply amplifying the gap between the good firms and the mediocre. Clients are becoming more selective, which means that successful solicitors are taking more of the market. The less effective firms, beached by the recession and their own "dash for growth" in the 1980s, are not being carried upwards by a rising tide. Instead, they are stuck with the underlying problems of high overheads, weak management and inadequate expertise. "They hoped," says Mr Mayson, "that when the economy came out of recession, their fortunes would turn. But that has not happened."

Yet while many middle-sized firms are floundering, able individual partners are setting up on their own to provide what they do best without the encumbrance of high overheads.

Ian Clark and Robert Ricketts, who both formerly worked for large City firms, have just completed their first full year in Lincoln's Inn Fields as the niche practice Clark Ricketts. They are specialists in the aviation scene and through writing, lecturing and membership of trade bodies, are entrenched in the close-knit aviation establishment. Mr Clark says: "We have been gratified by how many of our former clients have come with us. We can now offer a highly specialist service without the problem of the very high fees charged by the larger firms."

Mr Clark believes that the legal services market is polarising, as clients seek either first-rank all-round services (from the likes of Allen & Overy and Slaughter & May) or the benefits of specialist expertise from niche practices such as his own.

This argument is borne out by the two big developments on this year's legal scene. First, the merger of Cameron Markby Hewitt and McKenna & Co to create Cameron McKenna confirms the move towards larger firms that offer all-round excellence. Secondly, it now seems clear that accountants are going to be making a strong play to develop top legal practices. The Arthur Andersen experiment with Garrett & Co seems to be paying off. Julia Chain, Garrett's managing partner, says: "Our success this year has vindicated Arthur Andersen's decision to develop its network of law firms. It has shown that we can offer what clients want." Most top accountancy firms are now laying their plans for UK legal practices, and a merger of a top accountancy and a top law firm is not impossible. Peter Cole, the managing partner of Eversheds, says that they would look seriously at an approach from a Big Six firm of accountants.

> 'Partners are likely to become an elite'

Many managing partners, meanwhile, point out that the traditional and career structure within law firms has to be reviewed and that the expectations of young lawyers must be changed.

The mass production of partners during the 1980s has been an object lesson in how not to do it. In well-run firms, partners are likely to become an increasingly elite group who manage strategically, while a new class of legal managers emerges composed of those who are good technically but lack the all-round skills required of partners.

Jeffrey Jannuzzo on two fast-track UN agreements

Deals settle Gulf costs

Two key events have occurred in mankind's first globally decided programme of war reparations. Two weeks ago, the United Nations let Iraq begin its first oil sales since it invaded Kuwait six years ago, with automatic seizure of 30 per cent of the proceeds for the UN's war claims fund. And last week the UN War Claims Commission in Geneva announced its first decision on a corporate-governmental claim: the cost to Kuwait of extinguishing the oilwell fires started by Saddam Hussein's troops as they fled the battlefield.

The UN commission decided at its outset in 1991 that it would put humanitarian claims before commercial ones, and has virtually completed the more than two million personal cases, for death, torture and destroyed property. Now that oil-for-reparations sales have begun, the injured will start getting compensation.

The business world waited to see how the UN would handle corporate-governmental claims. The announced plans were to provide fair procedural rights to Iraq, but to brook no delay, neither from Iraqi foot-dragging nor from endless hearings from panels that liked their jobs too much.

The work of the first panel shows that the UN will act fast and will safeguard Iraq's right to a fair hearing without letting the aggressor nation control the schedule. This panel also functioned far more like civil law inquisitors than common law judges. It took on the job of investigation and verification, rather than relying on the parties to fight it out.

Kuwait began preparing for the well blowout claim in autumn 1990, shortly after the invasion, when the oil company managers who escaped met in London and received reports that the Iraqis were wiring the wellheads with explosives. They hired the engineering firm Bechtel and laid plans to extinguish well fires if Iraq struck the match.

In 1995, the UN Compensation Commission (the UNCC) chose the panel to hear this $1 billion claim. In lieu of warehouses of records, Kuwait submitted a detailed accountants' report by Touche Ross: the records were held for UN inspection. The three commissioners considered the Kuwaiti submissions and issued their first procedural order in November 1995, with extensive interrogatories for Kuwait's response by February 1996. Iraq was given until April 1996 to respond.

Saddam: paying reparations

In May 1996, the panel issued a second procedural order, with a June 1996 response date. (Iraq was given a final opportunity to reply by September 1996, but did not take it.) Then in July 1996, a UN verification team went to Kuwait to inspect the underlying records, including one of the commissioners along with accounting and legal consultants from the UNCC.

A week of oral hearings followed in July and August 1996, where the Iraqis argued that Allied bombing and artillery, not them, destroyed the nearly 800 vandalised wells. The panel could have bogged down in well-by-well causation trials, but declined to be sidetracked, and ruled that the evidence showed deliberate Iraqi detonation of wells, even if some were also damaged by Allied action.

It also applied Decision 7 of the UNCC Governing Council, which previously determined that compensable loss included loss from military action by *either side*. That decision was in effect a vote of the Security Council, because the governing council is the Security Council nations sitting in committee. In this crucial first case, we see proof that the claims process is controlled by the world community, not by the mere conscience of judges or the will of victorious allies. Since the UNCC was established, nearly a third of the world's countries have sat on the governing council, and all their decisions have been taken by consensus.

The panel's decision was confirmed by the governing council last week, a year after the first procedural order. Not bad in a world where mere million-dollar international claims can take a decade.

The panel's grittiest work was deciding which costs could be apportioned to the well blowout control claim, and which should be considered elsewhere. For example, Kuwait had to buy capital equipment to fight the fires, and it acknowledged that equipment had continuing value. Eventually, Kuwait was awarded $610,048,547. About $337 million was transferred to other claims for later consideration. Interest was handled by the panel's choice of a date, October 15, 1991, as a fair midpoint in the expenses. The governing council will determine the interest rate.

The next round of corporate-governmental cases will start in early 1997. Commissioners have already been chosen and test cases will establish general rules, to be applied to all similar claims. When the well fires were burning, no one thought reparations were possible. Now the UNCC is sprinting to the finish line.

● *The author is an international lawyer with Layton Brooks & Hecht in New York.*

● Queen's Counsel *will return after the break.*

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RACING: TRAINERS WAIT UNTIL LAST MINUTE ON RUNNING PLANS

Doubts surround shape of King George field

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

THE curse of small fields, which has dogged this National Hunt season, looks set to hit the Pertemps King George VI Chase at **Kempton** — if the weather does not go one better by killing off Boxing Day's showpiece.

Only eight runners were declared yesterday for the £100,000-added three-mile event, but there is a question mark against the participation of half the field because of the state of the ground which is being dried out by bitterly cold winds.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ANGELO'S DOUBLE
(2.00 Newton Abbot)
Next best: Mrs Em
(12.45 Wincanton)

Although the weathermen are predicting freezing temperatures across Britain until the weekend, a local forecast suggested the Sunbury course may avoid the worst of the icy blast and be able to stage its most popular race day of the year.

However, the trainers of Rough Quest, Trying Again and Couldnt Be Better all plan to walk the course to decide if the ground is too fast for their horses — while Mr Mulligan is battling to recover from a bruised foot.

Terry Casey, trainer of Rough Quest, the Grand National winner, said yesterday: "The horse comes first. We don't want the ground to firm up. It's not looking very hopeful but one never knows and we will just have to keep our fingers crossed."

Trying Again is a Kempton specialist but prefers the mud and David Gandolfo, his trainer, said: "I wouldn't put it as strongly as to say there has to be downpour, but he certainly won't run if the ground is fast on the day."

Charlie Brooks, trainer of Couldnt be Better, last season's Hennessy Gold Cup winner, added: "He wants to get his toe in and doesn't enjoy fast ground."

Mr Mulligan bruised a foot when he stood on a stone last Thursday, but Noel Chance is hopeful. "He had a shoe on today and he walked and trotted sound. Provided there is no deterioration, he should run."

The national weathermen are forecasting frost at night until the weekend with temperatures in the North and Scotland falling as low as -8C. However, officials at Kempton are optimistic they will miss the worst of the cold snap.

Sue Ellen, managing director of United Racecourses, said: "Although the regional forecast is not brilliant, the local forecast is much better. It was -1.1C last night and is 3.7C and sunny today. There would have been no question of an inspection today."

Peter McNeile, clerk of the course at Kempton, added: "The temperature has been below zero the last two nights but it hasn't affected the ground."

Ayr already fears it will lose its Boxing Day fixture for the second year running and plans an inspection for 10am tomorrow. "We had quite a lot of frost last night and we certainly could not have raced today. The forecast is not good with more frost expected." Mark Kershaw, clerk of the Scottish course, said.

At **Wincanton**, the omens are not good. "There is no frost in the ground but, judging by the forecast, things look pretty dire," Ian Renton, clerk of the course, said.

Adam Waterworth, racecourse manager at **Huntingdon**, reported: "If the forecast is correct, then we will struggle to race. The worst of the weather appears to be forecast for Christmas Day night. The plan is to hold an inspection at 7.30am on Boxing Day."

Newton Abbot is often raceable when other meetings fall to a cold snap and the Devon track is again optimistic. "The forecast is okay and we might even have some rain, so frost is our only slight worry."

Wetherby is also bullish. "We are hopeful as there are no problems at present and we could have raced today. The forecast is wintry but not too bad."

Although **Market Rasen** could not have raced on Saturday, the course had improved by yesterday. "The forecast is somewhat pessimistic but we have a lot of new ground to race on, which will take a great deal of frost than used areas."

Hereford will not make any decision before Christmas Day, but it would have "touch and go whether racing could have taken place today." At **Sedgefield**, a spokesman said: "The weather is wet and we have a good cloud cover. We have no problems at the moment." **Wolverhampton** is expecting a "nasty frost" tomorrow night.

☐ Richard Evans's TV Guide will appear in the Boxing Day edition.

Casey, right, and Fitzgerald are keeping a watchful eye on on the weather for their King George hope, Rough Quest

BIG RACE LINE-UP

2.15 PERTEMPS KING GEORGE VI CHASE (Grade I: £63,325: 3m) (8 runners) — C4

401 4420-25 BARTON BANK 40 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 10-11-10 .. A Maguire 80
(Emerald green, white stars, emerald green cap, white star)

402 F3PP-20 COULDNT BE BETTER 26 (D,F,G,S) (R Wallis) C Brooks 9-11-10 . . . G Bradley 85
(Royal blue, white hoops, royal blue sleeves, striped cap)

403 11112-4 MR MULLIGAN 19 (D,BF,F,G,S) (M Worcester) N Chance 8-11-10 . . A P McCoy 76
(Light blue, black sleeves, red seams, black and light blue quartered cap)

404 21121-6 NAHTHEN LAD 8 (G,S) (J Steed) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-10 . . . . N Williamson 73
(White, black stars, white sleeves, black cap)

405 F/1116-1 ONE MAN 54 (D,F,G,S) (J Hales) G Richards 8-11-10 . . . . R Dunwoody (6) 79
(Yellow, red star, yellow sleeves, white armlets, yellow cap, red star)

406 2F121-1 ROUGH QUEST 9 (CD,G,S) (A Wates) T Casey 10-11-10 . . . . M A Fitzgerald 95
(Navy blue, green sash, canse cap)

407 121121 STRONG PROMISE 33 (F,G) (G Huppard) G Hubbard 5-11-10 . . . . K Gaule 65
(Emerald green, white sleeves, emerald green and white check cap)

408 1P11-12 TRYING AGAIN 19 (C,G,S) (W Dore) D Gandolfo 8-11-10 . . . . D Fortt 69
(Light blue, dark blue sash, hooped sleeves, quartered cap)

BETTING: 4-7 One Man, 4-1 Rough Quest, 6-1 Strong Promise, 9-1 Barton Bank, 20-1 Mr Mulligan, 25-1 Trying Again, 33-1 Nahthen Lad, 50-1 Couldnt Be Better

1996 (run at Sandown Park) ONE MAN 8-11-10 R Dunwoody (11-4 fav) 6 Richards 11 ran

COMPREHENSIVE FORM GUIDE TO THE EIGHT CONTENDERS

BARTON BANK

Nov 16, Cheltenham, good to firm: see Strong Promise

Nov 2, Wetherby, good: see One Man.

Apr 27, Sandown, good to firm: (11-9) 17l 7th to Life Of A Lord (11-10) [3m 5f 110yd, grade III handicap chase, £57,806, 17 ran).

Mar 14, Cheltenham, good: see Rough Quest.

Jan 6, Sandown, good to soft: see One Man.

COULDNT BE BETTER

Nov 30, Newbury, good, (11-10) 76l 8th to Coome Hill (10-0) (3m 2f, 110yd, grade III handicap chase, £48,283, 11 ran)

Nov 20, Haydock, good: (11-12) 4l 2nd to Unguided Missile (11-0) (3m, handicap chase, £10,036, 4 ran).

Apr 20, Ayr, soft: (10-2) pulled up before 4 out behind Moorcroft Boy (10-2) (4m 1f grade III handicap chase, £38,590, 20 ran).

Mar 14, Cheltenham, good: see Rough Quest.

MR MULLIGAN

Dec 7, Chepstow, good to soft see Trying Again.

Mar 17, Cheltenham, good to soft: see Nahthen Lad.

Feb 14 Ascot, good to soft (11-12) beat Nahthen Lad (11-5) 15l (3m 110yd, grade II novice chase, £15,850, 10 ran)

NAHTHEN LAD

Dec 18, Bangor, good: (11-10) 26l 6th to Freddie Muck (11-0) (3m, handicap hurdle, £4,765, 7 ran).

Mar 13, Cheltenham, good to soft: (11-4) beat Mr Mulligan (11-4) 8l (3m 1f, grade I novice chase, £54,673, 12 ran)

Feb 14, Ascot, good to soft: see Mr Mulligan.

ONE MAN

Nov 2, Wetherby, good, (11-10) beat Barton Bank (11-10) 7l (3m 1f, grade II chase, £18,300, 4 ran)

Mar 14, Cheltenham, good, see Rough Quest.

Jan 6, Sandown, good to soft: (11-10) beat Monsieur Le Cure (11-10) 14l with Barton Bank (11-10) pulled before 2 out (3m 110yd, grade I chase, £63,835, 11 ran).

ROUGH QUEST

Dec 17, Folkestone, good to soft (10-12) beat Destin d'Estruval (10-12) ½l (2m 4f 110yd, novice hurdle, £2,805, 14 ran).

Mar 30, Aintree, good: (10-7) beat Encore Un Peu (10-0) 1¼l (4m 4f, grade III handicap chase, £142,534, 27 ran)

Mar 14, Cheltenham, good: (12-0) 4l 2nd to Imperial call (12-0) with Couldnt Be Better (12-0) 19l 3rd, Barton Bank (12-0) 3l 4th and One Man (12-0) neck and 8l 5th (3m 2f 110yd, grade I chase, £131,156, 10 ran).

STRONG PROMISE

Nov 23, Ascot, good to firm: (10-8) beat Major Bell (11-1) 4l (2m 3f 110yd, grade II limited handicap chase, £25,984, 8 ran).

Nov 16, Cheltenham, good to firm: (10-0) head 2nd to Challenger Du Luc (10-2) with Barton Bank (11-5) 13½l 5th (2m 4f 110yd, grade III handicap chase, £38,270, 12 ran).

Nov 2, Ascot, good to firm: (11-8) beat Minor Key (11-1) 27l (2m 3f 110yd, novice chase, £4,986, 2 ran).

Oct 29, Cheltenham, good to firm: (12-0) beat Pongo Waring (11-13) 11l (2m 4f 110yd, novice handicap chase, £4,562, 3 ran).

TRYING AGAIN

Dec 7, Chepstow, good to soft: (11-1) 1¼l 2nd to Belmont King (10-8) with Mr Mulligan (11-12) 12¼l 4th (3m, grade II limited handicap chase, £18,822, 7 ran).

Nov 20, Kempton, good to soft: (11-3) beat Old Bridge (10-9) 7l (2m 4f 110yd, handicap chase, £4,715, 7 ran).

Apr 17, Cheltenham, good to soft: (11-11) beat Air Shot (11-4) 4l (2m 5f, novice chase, £3,602, 7 ran).

Mar 21, Wincanton, good to soft: (12-3) beat Capenwray (11-3) a distance (2m 5f, novice chase, £3,733, 9 ran)

Selection: ONE MAN (nap)

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

The grey Sleeptite, who was subsequently purchased by Brasher, on his way to victory at Ludlow yesterday

Brasher enjoys early present

CHRIS BRASHER, the former Olympic champion, purchased an early Christmas present and then promptly paid most of the expenses after Maid For Adventure carried his colours to victory at Ludlow yesterday.

Brasher, who won the 3,000 metres steeplechase at the 1956 Melbourne Games, outbid the trainer, Bill Turner, to secure Sleeptite, winner of the Tanners Cava Conditional Jockeys' Selling Handicap Hurdle, for 3,600 guineas.

Brasher showed he retained plenty of his old dash when hurrying to the winner's enclosure to welcome back Maid For Adventure, who took the Hoechst Roussel Panacur EBF Novices' Hurdle in style under Barry Fenton. "It must be my lucky day," Brasher said. "I've bought a horse and almost paid for it by winning with one of my own."

Maid For Adventure's trainer, Henrietta Knight, said of her ten-length winner: "She was bought to go chasing and that's what she will ultimately do. But for this season, she'll be aimed at the final of the race at Newbury in March.

The Wantage trainer added: "Chris kindly let Barry keep the mount as our stable jockey, Jason Titley, is here today, but Barry gave her such a good ride at Newbury last time and he decided to stay loyal to him."

Titley bounced back from six weeks on the sidelines after sustaining bruised kidneys in a schooling accident when Too Sharp became Knight's second winner of the day in the Tanners Burgundy Handicap Chase.

"I lost three pints of blood and had to have a transfusion," Titley reported. "But I've been riding out for Henrietta for three weeks and everything seems to be fine now, especially as I've ridden a winner on my first ride back."

Richard Johnson, last term's champion conditional jockey, gained his fiftieth winner of the term after Super Coin took advantage of Holy Wanderer's last-fence mishap to land the Tanners Wines Novices' Chase.

Gerry Hogan, rider of Holy Wanderer, gave up his remaining ride of the afternoon after being badly bruised and shaken in the nasty-looking incident.

Going concerns end Algan's challenge

ALGAN, the winner of the King George VI Chase two years ago, was yesterday pulled out of the big race because of the ground. The French hope, whose trainer, François Doumen, has won the event four times, will not be risked as the going at Kempton is considered too fast.

The decision leaves Barton Bank and the odds-on favourite, One Man, as the only previous King George winners among the line-up, although the latter's victory was achieved at Sandown Park.

Doumen left his Lamorlaye base for Britain yesterday morning with four horses to run at Kempton and Newbury this week, but Algan was not among them.

"It is purely because of the ground. It's a shame because he is so well," Doumen said. "I have talked to trainer friends and the clerk of the course every day but I had to make a decision last night.

"All through his career Algan has performed his best only on soft ground. There was no point in him going because the weather is freezing and even if it rained now it would not be enough."

Algan was one of three withdrawals at yesterday's declaration stage. The others were Sound Man and Oatis Regrets, leaving a field of eight.

Land Afar booked for Leopardstown

LAND AFAR travels to Ireland to tackle Danoli in the Denny Gold Medal Chase at Leopardstown on Boxing Day (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

The Paul Webber-trained gelding has come off second-best in his clashes with the Irish star in the last two Champion Hurdles, most recently finishing tenth, to Danoli's fourth, behind Collier Bay at Cheltenham last March.

He has also come off second-best in his last two outings over fences. At Cheltenham, a six-length defeat against Celibate, and at Sandown Park, when rallying close home only to fail by a neck against Mulligan. He did, however, make a winning steeplechasing debut at Kempton Park in October, readily beating Amancio by five lengths.

Danoli, who has confirmed his status as the most popular National Hunt performer in Ireland after his comeback from a life-threatening injury last term, will be attempting to get his chasing career back on track in Thursday's £35,000-added contest.

Tom Foley's stable star won his first two starts over fences, at Clonmel and Naas, but fell at the third in the race won by Dorans Pride from See More Business at Fairyhouse last time out.

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER

12.40 Sanmartino
1.10 See More Business
1.40 Chai-Yo
2.15 One Man
2.45 Mister Drum
3.15 **PEATSWOOD (nap)**

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 **ONE MAN.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.40 **ALBEMINE** (nap).

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

12.40 GOOD JOB NOVICES HURDLE (£7,263: 2m) (13 runners)

101 111111 KAILASH 40 (D,F,G) (M Fletcher) M Pipe 5-11-10 . . . A P McCoy 90
102 0-21 DANEGOLD 21 (D,G) (Circular Distributors) M Channon 4-11-5 . . . R Hughes 81
103 2 DESERT GREEN 21 (BF) (Mrs P Jubert) R Hanson 7-11-5 N Williamson 88
104 0/2450- RIONANS FLUTTER 385 (S) (R Wright) D Elsworth 8-11-5 . . 2nd pref –
135 LEADING SPIRIT 110F (Indoma Partners Two) C Wall 4-11-5 . . G Bradley –
105 0 IVANSUR 21 (E McGrath) N Henderson 4-11-5 M A Fitzgerald –
107 P0 NIGHT FLARE 21 (Mrs F Gordon) S Woodman 4-11-5 . . . K Gaule –
108 3/33 NORDANCE PRINCE 26 (Pratts Gym) Miss G Kelleway 5-11-5 L Reynolds 91
109 4/04P-0P HALLJOURA BOY 20 (Pallabum Ltd) Mrs J Reiter 6-11-5 . . 2nd pref 50
110 1 PROTON 21 (D,G) (Morgan War Racing) R Alexiev 6-11-5 . . R Dunwoody (6) 88
111 SANMARTINO 82F (R Apfelbaum) D Nicholson 4-11-5 A Maguire –
112 2-12 SECRET SPRING 28 (D,BF,G) (M George) P Hedger 4-11-5 . . M Richards 94
113 004-52 MOOR HALL LADY 24 (R Brookhouse) R Hobbs 5-11-0 C Maude 76

BETTING: 9-4 Kailash, 5-2 Sanmartino, 5-1 Proton, 10-1 Desert Green, 12-1 Danegold, 14-1 others

1995: MEETING ABANDONED — FROST

FORM FOCUS

KAILASH beat Herbert Lodge 7l in 5-runner grade II Nicholson Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yds, good to firm).
SECRET SPRING 1¼l 2nd of 13 to Yet Again in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to firm) Previously beat DANEGOLD 3¼l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good)
DANEGOLD beat Sailep 7l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good) PROTON beat DESERT GREEN 9l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good) NORDANCE PRINCE 3l and short-head 3rd of 19 to Hon Warner in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yds, good).
SANMARTINO smart stayer on Flat, 2nd to Celtic at Newmarket last time
Selection: SECRET SPRING

Alderbrook's run in doubt

ALDERBROOK is unlikely to make his seasonal debut in the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton Park on Friday unless the ground eases. Should he miss the race, a possible alternative is a trip to Leopardstown on January 19.

Kim Bailey, his trainer, will walk the course before making a decision but his assistant, Alex Hales, said: "Alderbrook is 100 per cent but won't run if the ground is quicker than soft. If he doesn't run, he could go straight to the Irish Champion Hurdle, but Kim and owner Ernie Pick will discuss that if he doesn't run on Friday."

1.10 PERTEMPS RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP FELTHAM NOVICES CHASE (Grade I: £22,950: 3m) (7 runners) — C4

201 6PPP-11 AARDWOLF 19 (D,G,S) (Lady Dampier) C Brooks 5-11-7 . . . . G Bradley 87
202 453-31F BUCKHOUSE BOY 12 (G,S) (Bawtry Boys) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-7 . . C Maude 92
203 1-11300 DJEDDAH 25 (S) (Mrs S Elkann) F Doumen (Fr) 5-11-7 . . . . A Kondrat –
204 /0/1211 FINE THYNE 36 (CD,F,G,S) (P Wiegand) Mrs A Perrett 7-11-7 . . . M A Fitzgerald 94
205 2/0F12-1 HATCHAM BOY 27 (D,G,S) (R Benton) D Nicholson 6-11-7 . . . . A Maguire 73
206 111-12 SEE MORE BUSINESS 25 (G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 6-11-7 . . . . A P McCoy (6) 88
207 213-112 SOLOMON'S DANCER 26 (F,G) (J Hales) G Richards 6-11-7 . . . . R Dunwoody 79

BETTING: 6-4 See More Business, 7-2 Aardwolf, 6-1 Fine Thyne, 7-1 Buckhouse Boy, 8-1 Hatcham Boy, Djeddah, 12-1 Solomon's Dancer

FORM FOCUS

AARDWOLF completed double, beat Mayor Summit short-head in 4-runner conditions race at Sandown (3m 110yd, good) BUCKHOUSE BOY beat Fordbroker Star 25l in 10-runner conditions chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start.
DJEDDAH best recent effort 6½l 3rd of 15 to Daulesli in handicap chase at Auteuil (2m 7f 110yd, very soft). FINE THYNE completed double, deadheated with Beside Not To in 4-runner novice chase over course and distance (good to soft) HATCHAM BOY best Welcome Call 1½l in 8-runner novice chase at Newbury (3m, good) SEE MORE BUSINESS 1l 2nd of 8 to Dorans Pride in grade I Chaqueta Dunraven Novices' Chase at Fairyhouse (2m 4f, yielding) SOLOMON'S DANCER 2½l 2nd of 10 to Sparky Gayle in novice chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, good).
Selection: SEE MORE BUSINESS

1.40 NETWORK PERSONNEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£6,827: 2m) (6 runners) — C4

301 1005-30 THINKING TWICE 27 (D,F,G,S) (E McGrath) N Henderson 7-11-10 . . . M A Fitzgerald 96
302 21-1121 CHAI-YO 13 (D,G,S) (N Vaney) J Old 6-10-12 . . . . G Upton 94
303 S23P-52 ALBEMINE 16 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Cecil) Mrs J Cecil 7-10-10 . . . . T Ives (6) 88
304 2F21P-3 INTERMAGIC 27 (D,G,S) (Will To Win Partners) J Fox 6-10-0 . . . . S Fox 80
305 211 YET AGAIN 14 (F,G) (A Griffin) Miss G Kelleway 4-10-0 . . . . 2nd pref 82
306 P136/0 PYRRHIC DANCE 21 (F,G) (T King) M Hayes 5-10-0 . . . . D Skyrme –

Long handicap: Intermagic 9-13, Yet Again 9-10, Pyrrhic Dance 7-5

BETTING: 11-10 Chai-Yo, 7-2 Albemine, 4-1 Yet Again, 7-1 Intermagic, 8-1 Thinking Twice, 33-1 Pyrrhic Dance.

FORM FOCUS

THINKING TWICE 27l 3rd of 6 to Second Call in novice chase at Towcester (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start
CHAI-YO best Kopanoor 12l in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good). Previously 8l 2nd of 10 to Mister Morose in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good) with INTERMAGIC (7lb better off) 13¼l 3rd and THINKING TWICE (4lb better off) 99¼l 9th. ALBEMINE ¾l 2nd of 9 to Most Royal in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). YET AGAIN completed double, beat Lucia Forte 1½l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good) PYRRHIC DANCE 75l 12th of 13 to Lets Be Frank in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good)
Selection: CHAI-YO

2.15 PERTEMPS KING GEORGE VI CHASE (Grade I: £63,325: 3m) (8 runners) — C4

RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE ABOVE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Channon	3	7	42.9	E Murphy	5	23	21.7
D Gandolfo	6	15	40.0	A Maguire	17	77	21.5
J Upson	3	8	37.5	N Williamson	12	59	20.3
F Doumen	3	9	33.3	R Dunwoody	20	103	19.2
P Nicholls	5	16	31.3	M A Fitzgerald	17	90	18.9
Lady Herries	4	13	30.8	A P McCoy	8	44	18.2

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 . . . . B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.45 NETWORK DESIGN INTERNATIONAL WAYWARD LAD NOVICES CHASE (£10,309: 2m 4f 110yd) (4 runners) — C4

501 1/23F11 GREENBACK 17 (F,G,S) (J Joseph) P Hobbs 5-11-7 . . . . N Williamson 87
502 11-1211 MISTER DRUM 20 (D,F,G,S) (M Batchelor) M Wilkinson 7-11-7 . . . R Dunwoody 97
503 121-111 POTTER'S BAY 14 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Potter) D Nicholson 7-11-7 . . . . A Maguire 95
504 2F0-151 SUBLIME FELLOW 22 (F,G) (Lady Goldsmith) N Henderson 6-11-7 . . . M A Fitzgerald 89

BETTING: 5-4 Potter's Bay, 9-4 Mister Drum, 4-1 Greenback, 7-1 Sublime Fellow.

FORM FOCUS

GREENBACK completed double, beat Sunset And Vine 11l in 5-runner novice chase at Folkestone (2m, good to soft) MISTER DRUM completed double, took Bold Boss 9l in 5-runner novice chase at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good). POTTER'S BAY completed treble, beat Triple Witching 1l in 2-runner novice chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good) SUBLIME FELLOW best Formal Invitation 8l in 9-runner novice chase at Southwell (2m, good).
Selection: POTTER'S BAY

3.15 PERTEMPS CRACK CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (£6,912: 3m 110yd) (9 runners)

601 2/12223 MYTTON'S CHOICE 26 (BF,F,G) (G Mytton) D Nicholson 5-11-10 . . A Maguire (6) 85
602 33-2124 LANSDOWNE 29 (D,G,S) (R Demmead) P Nicholls 8-11-7 . . . . A P McCoy 98
603 118/04 CASTLE COURAGEOUS 12 (C,G,S) (Lady Mumford) Lady Herries 9-11-7 E Murphy 84
604 /1FFR-4 PEATSWOOD 57 (CD,F,G,S) (P Tabor) M Channon 8-11-1 . . . . R Hughes 92
605 1416-35 ULURU 13 (D,F,G) (P Mordant) C Murtagh 8-10-11 . . . . R Dunwoody 94
606 30-5312 TIM 19 (C,F,S) (Cook Clan) J Jenkins 6-10-8 . . . . M A Fitzgerald 93
607 06P-515 COKENNY BOY 10 (F,G,S) (G Hemstock) Mrs J Pitman 11-10-4 . . N Williamson 90
608 056-613 NICK THE BEAK 19 (C,S) (R Wilson) J Upson 7-10-4 . . . . C Maude 91
609 2/504/5- EALING COURT 404 (G) (R Brookhouse) N Babbage 7-10-0 . . . . G Upton –

Long handicap: Ealing Court 9-1

BETTING: 11-4 Mytton's Choice, 4-1 Lansdowne, 5-1 Tim, 6-1 Nick The Beak, 7-1 Castle Courageous, 8-1 Uluru, Cokenny Boy, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

MYTTON'S CHOICE 2¼l 3rd of 9 to Balanak in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, good) with CASTLE COURAGEOUS (4lb better off) 15¾l 7th. LANSDOWNE 12¼l 4th of 15 to General Tonic in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (3m, soft).
PEATSWOOD 8¼l 4th of 5 to Courbaril in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, firm). ULURU 13¼l 5th of 10 to Elburg in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good). COKENNY BOY best TIM (3lb better off) 2¾l in 5-runner handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good) on penultimate start.
NICK THE BEAK best Glen Mirage 3½l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: MYTTON'S CHOICE

Blinkered first time

HEREFORD: 1.05 Country Lover, 2.05 Hugh Dennis, Purbeck Cavalier, 3.35 Nordic Breeze. HUNTINGDON: 12.30 Kamikaze, Wisley Wonder. LINGFIELD PARK: 1.20 Oaken Wood, 2.20 Fancy Design, 3.20 Code Red. MARKET RASEN: 2.35 Lord Vick. NEWTON ABBOT: 3.35 Bayard. SEDGEFIELD: 12.10 Pocaro Geoffre. WINCANTON: 2.20 Kindle's Delight. WOLVERHAMPTON: 3.00 Fenian Court, Young Benson.

Titley to ride Jodami

JASON TITLEY, who returned from injury with a winner at Ludlow yesterday, had another reason to celebrate when he was given the ride on Jodami in the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase at Wetherby on Boxing Day.

Titley's agent, Graeme James, approached Jodami's trainer, Peter Beaumont, when it became clear that other jockeys could not commit themselves to being at Wetherby to replace the injured Mark Dwyer on the 1993 Gold Cup winner.

"I've not ridden for Mr Beaumont before but obviously I know plenty about Jodami," Titley said. "I'll also be having a long chat with Mark because I won't have a chance to sit on Jodami before the race.

"I think he ran a cracker first time out and he has shown he is a horse who improves throughout the season. He must have a great chance."

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ludlow

Going: good to firm, firm in places

1.00 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, SLEEPTITE (J Power, 3-1 fav); 2, Eulogy (A P McCoy, 10-1); 3, Arabian Bold (W Marston, 25-1) ALSO RAN: 3 Holy Wanderer (uf) 4 ran. NR Who Is Equiname 15l, ½l, R Lee at Presteigne. Tote: £1.30. DF: £3.00. CSF: £4.26.

3.00 (2m 4f ch) 1, TOO SHARP (J F Titley, 15-8 fav); 2, Comrader (J Railton, 20-1). 3, Spinning Steel (S Burrough, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 2 Celtino (pu), 9-2 Channel Pastime (4th), 8 Comedy Road (5th) 6 ran. NR Blazer Monniere, Three Philosophers. 1¾l, 20l, 2½l, 9l. Miss H Knight at Wantage. Tote: £2.70; £1.20, £8.00. DF: £14.10. CSF: £26.75. Tricast £262.27.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, ULTIMATE SMOOTHIE (A P McCoy, 5-4 jt-fav); 2, Joshua's Vision (R Johnson, 6-1); 3, Manvutane (J Railton, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 5-4 jt-fav Sounds Like Fun (4th), 33 Loughdoo, South West Express (5th), 50 Babie Sam, 100 Derrys Prerogative (6th), Private Memories. 9 ran. NR: Barton Scamp, Crimson King, Dark Orchard, Relaxed Lad, Shropshire Gale, Stormytaxweather. 1½l, 2l, 3½l, 10l, 22l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £2.70; £1.10, £1.20, £2.50. DF: £7.10 Tho. £13.50. CSF £9.40.

Jackpot: £1,162.00.

Placepot: £38.90. Quadpot: £15.70.

☐ The meeting at Kelso was abandoned because of frost

£1.10, £1.10, £2.10. DF: £5.20. Trio. £7.50. CSF: £8.94

2.30 (2m ch) 1, SUPER COIN (R Johnson, 4-11 fav); 2, Eulogy (A P McCoy, 10-1); 3, Arabian Bold (W Marston, 25-1) ALSO RAN. 3 Holy Wanderer (uf) 4 ran. NR Who Is Equiname 15l, ½l, R Lee at Presteigne. Tote. £1.30. DF: £3.00 CSF: £4.26.

Former champion regains control of his career away from title-chasing treadmill

JULIAN HERBERT
Dunwoody's desire for competition is undimmed despite his big-race victories and jockeys' titles

Dunwoody's quest for success fuelled by driving ambition

ANDREW LONGMORE

on a National Hunt jockey at the height of his powers

It is hard to assess exactly where Richard Dunwoody is now. He left the term "champion" behind long ago and has ticked items off the list of greatness with absurd ease: the Grand National (West Tip and Miinnehoma), the Gold Cup (Charter Party), the Champion Hurdle (Kribensis), three times champion jockey. He rode his 1,400th winner earlier in the season, has the pick of the best horses on both sides of the Irish Sea and, at 32, the respect of all but a very few of that critical breed whose investment he carries every day of the week.

A new video of Dunwoody's career is sub-titled *The Perfect Article*, which, even allowing for a bit of pre-Christmas hyperbole, is not far off the mark. In it, Graham Bradley offers this assessment: "Richard is phenomenal, dedicated, very hard to beat. He's about as good as I've seen ... Francome apart." Even Dunwoody accepts Francome's pre-eminence.

Bradley calls Dunwoody "*the* professional" and just a short time in the Irishman's company justifies the description. Earlier this year, Dunwoody was lured by his nose for adventure to ride Its A Snip in the Velka Pardubicka in the Czech Republic. No jockey this century had ridden the winner of the National and the Pardubicka, but, for all Dunwoody's outward concern, this might have been a novice chase at Southwell.

He manifestly failed to be impressed by the mighty Taxis fence — "jumped bigger than that in Italy" — or to be wooed into making claims on behalf of his outrageous bravery by an interviewer from Czech television. He was unbothered by the complexity of the layout or the dubious quality of a game but ageing chaser. What did worry him was the inexperience of the local riders, something out of his control. In the event, his historic quest failed, but for want of speed in Its A Snip rather than lack of guidance from on top.

To look at Dunwoody on a horse, even with untrained eyes, is to see the ultimate in control. If there is a flurry of activity on board, it is either time to bail out — though Dunwoody falls more elegantly than most because he tends to see trouble coming — or to mount one of those rhythmic finishes that are the mark of the true stylist.

Otherwise, with head low against the neck, seat down, horse and man are moulded in near inseparable silhouette. Control is important to him, on horseback and in his life; loss of it was at the root of his split from Martin Pipe. Stuck on a treadmill that was playing havoc with his health and his private life, he had to jump off.

The move away from Pipe and the endless pursuit of two-bit winners prompted tales of a new, mellow, Dunwoody. There is truth in the change, but only so much. In his second championship season, 1993-94, he had ridden 59 winners from 357 rides by early December; this year it was 68 from 329. "You should ask my agent about how much I've changed," he said. Or the motorists who have the temerity to block his path. Or his weighing-room colleagues who see the same intense expression and receive the same curt response to their questions during idle moments in a three-mile chase.

"I'm obsessive now, but I'm trying to be obsessive about the right things," he said. Dunwoody has a degree in obsession. The difference from those turbulent days when he drove himself near to a nervous breakdown in his duel with Adrian Maguire is that he knows the source of his obsession. He is obsessed with competition, not race-riding.

If he needs a living reminder of the past, he has only to look across the weighing-room at the new champion, Tony McCoy. "At Leicester recently, I rode a horse Tony could have ridden," he said. "He finished down the field on his and I finished second, but he couldn't see where I was. So he comes rushing up to me: 'Did you win?' 'Yes,' I said, 'hacked up.' And he went off cursing. I could see myself right there."

Dunwoody admits that he has almost everything now: the best horses, the confidence, wealth enough, precious freedom inside an oppressive routine. Yet contentment is not a familiar state of mind. There is always another challenge. He has hired RBI promotions to take his name wider, has his own ten-minute slot on Radio 5 Live on Friday nights and developed a strong friendship with David Coulthard, the Formula One driver.

Asked if he could walk away from racing tomorrow, Dunwoody said: "Definitely. I can look you in the eye and say that. I've got other ambitions outside racing. I want to get my racing driver's licence next year and set up my own business. I've got tentacles out all over the place. They've just not reached out and grabbed hold of anything yet. So racing is still No 1 in my life."

For how much longer, though? Dunwoody nearly retired two years ago and again last month. "I went up to Leicester and the meeting was called off and I said: 'Right, that's it, I've had enough'," he said. "Three days later, I'm at Folkestone and really looking forward to it. I'm very changeable, it's part of my character.

"There is nothing in racing I particularly want to do now. My fulfilment comes from competing, riding decent horses and winning. I enjoy riding at Fakenham as much as Cheltenham or Aintree. I enjoy expressing myself because this is the one thing I do reasonably well." Yes, Dunwoody has changed. He is not just an incomparably impressive jockey these days, he is an impressive man.

Richard Dunwoody writes exclusively in *The Times* on Boxing Day on his attempt to win a record fourth King George VI Chase.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
12.50 Cedez Le Passage. 1.20 The Wyandotte Inn. 1.50 Effervescence. 2.20 Passage Creeping. 2.50 Waikiki Beach. 3.20 Coh Sho No.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.20 Nothing Doing.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

12.50 EPIPHANY CLAIMING STAKES (Div I: £2,541: 1m 2f) (6 runners)
1 (1) 050516 CEDEZ LE PASSAGE 12 (B,G) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 5-9-9 W Ryan 93
2 (2) 400-232 BAROSSA VALLEY 13 (G) (C W Wilson) P Butler 5-9-5 D Sweeney (5) [illegible]
3 (6) 630003 SLIP JIG 15 (S) (J Horgan) R Hannon 3-9-0 Dane O'Neill 93
4 (4) 506060 HATTA SUNSHINE 30 (CD,G) (R Kiernan) A Moore 6-8-9 Candy Morris 85
5 (5) 40-0000 NORTHERN CHIEF 34 (F,S) (M Vowles) J Cullinan 6-8-9 V Slattery —
6 (3) 125035 HOW COULD-I 6J (F) (G Wiltshire) Mrs N Macauley 3-7-13 J Quinn 86

BETTING: 6-4 Barossa Valley, 3-1 Cedez Le Passage, 9-2 Slip Jig, 5-1 How Could-I, 8-1 Hatta Sunshine, 5-1 Northern Chief

1995: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

1.20 MARY & JOSEPH NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £2,846: 6f) (7 runners)
1 (7) 264540 ROYAL ORCHID 65 (M Al-Shealbi) R Hannon 9-7 Dane O'Neill 84
2 (1) 143501 HEAVENLY MISS 6 (C,D,F,G) (T Mitchell) J Bridger 9-5 (7ex) S Sanders [illegible]
3 (6) 302232 THE WYANDOTTE INN 13 (G Farndon) R Hollinshead 9-3 W Ryan 89
4 (3) 00060 COUNTLESS TIMES 19 (Pin Way Partnership) W Muir 8-6 A Clark 85
5 (4) 000 OAKEN WOOD 42 (B) (Gallagher Materials) N Callaghan 8-7 Angela Gallimore (7) 80
6 (2) 0000 ISLAND PRINCE 51 (J R Leisure) N Callaghan 7-10 J Quinn 98
7 (5) 000000 MYSTERY 37 (Mrs G R Smith) S Dow 7-10 D Salt (7) 91

BETTING: 7-4 The Wyandotte Inn, 5-2 Heavenly Miss, 9-2 Royal Orchid, 8-1 Countless Times, 10-1 Mystery, 12-1 Oaken Wood, 14-1 Island Prince.

1.50 THREE WISE MEN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,846: 7f) (4 runners)
1 (4) 020242 EFFERVESCENCE 7 (Gold Border Syndicate) R Hannon 9-0 Dane O'Neill [illegible]
2 (1) 40003 HEVER GOLF MOVER 6 (Hever Racing Club I) T Naughton 8-9 D Holland 73
3 (2) 5660 LILY JAQUES 7 (A Coogan) R Guest 8-9 S Sanders 88
4 (3) 006 SOURA 6 (L A Hurley) P Kelleway 8-9 M Wigham 76

BETTING: 4-7 Effervescence, 9-2 Hever Golf Mover, 6-1 Soura, 8-1 Lily Jaques.

2.20 SANTA CLAUS MAIDEN STAKES (£3,469: 1m) (9 runners)
1 (3) 000-003 ROYAL CARLTON 13 (Mrs M Doyle) G L Moore 4-9-0 S Whitworth 85
2 (1) 5-25000 BE SATISFIED 21 (F Hill) A Moore 3-8-13 A Clark 74
3 (9) 000 GEORGIE BOY 254 (Mrs Swinburn) Miss G Kelleway 3-8-13 Angela Gallimore (7) —
4 (6) 650000 HEVER GOLF EAGLE 52 (Hever Racing Club III) T Naughton 3-8-13 D Holland 69
5 (2) 00-0000 LITTLE PILGRIM 13 (R Page) T Jones 3-8-13 R Perham —
6 (2) 4044.03 RIVER SEINE 21 (Mrs G Withers) S Knight 4-8-9 W Ryan 81
7 (5) 0 BROUGHTONS RELISH 15 (Broughton B'stock) W Musson 3-8-8 D Williams (7) —
8 (7) 0-05066 FANCY DESIGN 37 (V) (Mrs V M Harris) P Mitchell 3-8-8 J Quinn 74
9 (4) 262402 PASSAGE CREEPING 37 (P Jacobs) S Dow 3-8-8 S Sanders [illegible]

BETTING: 5-4 Passage Creeping, 2-1 Royal Carlton, 5-1 River Seine, 8-1 Hever Golf Eagle, 12-1 Be Satisfied, 16-1 Fancy Design, 20-1 others.

2.50 EPIPHANY CLAIMING STAKES (Div II: £2,529: 1m 2f) (10 runners)
1 (2) 341402 WAIKIKI BEACH 15 (C,BF,F,G) (Pennine Partners) G L Moore 5-9-9 S Whitworth 86
2 (6) 542240 LOVEYOUMILLIONS 12 (F,S) (Elite Racing Club) N Tinkler 4-9-1 W Ryan [illegible]
3 (8) 2000-07 BON SECRET 15 (C,G) (F Jackman) T Naughton 4-8-13 D Holland 83
4 (5) 004260 EASTLEIGH 13 (C,G,S) (J Bigg) R Hollinshead 7-8-9 Lisa Watson (7) 77
5 (4) 05-500 DRAGON GREEN 12 (G) (Old Style Partnership) J Cullinan 5-8-7 R Perham —
6 (10) 0030 TOPUP 98 (J Dawes) J Hills 3-8-6 N Adams 88
7 (3) 600000 JUSTINIANUS 7 (G,S) (J Bridger) J Bridger 4-8-5 S Sanders 54
8 (9) 800404 MEDIATE 15 (C,F,G) (A Hide) A Hide 4-8-5 G Milligan (7) 76
9 (7) 640500 UONI 114 (M Halstead) P Butler 3-8-1 J Quinn 79
10 (1) 005305 EFFICACIOUS 6 (C Sparrowhawk) A Moore 3-7-11 F Norton 80

BETTING: 7-4 Bon Secret, 9-4 Waikiki Beach, 7-2 Loveyoumillions, 8-1 Eastleigh, 10-1 Efficacious, 12-1 Mediate, 14-1 Uoni, 16-1 Topup, 20-1 others.

3.20 REINDEER HANDICAP (£2,541: 2m) (10 runners)
1 (4) 649165 GUEST ALLIANCE 15 (CD,G) (Ballard 1834 Ltd) A Moore 4-10-0 Candy Morris 90
2 (10) 230631 WOTTASHAMBLES 15 (CD,F,G) (Dozen On Racing) L M Hall 5-9-2 D Holland 94
3 (5) 55/6010- CAVINA 24J (CD,G) (P Jacobs) N Graham 6-9-1 Dane O'Neill —
4 (6) 550343 CODE RED 10J (V) (Bowman Partnership) W Muir 3-9-0 A Clark 97
5 (6) 500034 COH SHO NO 44 (H Nass) S Dow 3-8-13 S Sanders 90
6 (2) 008000 ADILOV 6 (T Machell) J Bridger 4-8-9 D Sweeney (5) 80
7 (9) 000002 MAPENGO 12 (G) (Alan Spargo Ltd) J Cullinan 5-8-9 V Slattery [illegible]
8 (3) 351023 NOTHING DOING 13 (G,S) (Broughton Bloodstock) W Musson 7-8-4 F Norton 93
9 (1) 0/0-000 ETOILE DU NORD 13 (Miss Z Whitmore) H Collingridge 4-7-11 J Quinn —
10 (7) 402060 ZELIBA 12 (F) (G Wiltshire) Mrs N Macauley 4-7-10 Angela Gallimore (7) 90

Long handicap: Zeliba 7-2

BETTING: 9-4 Wottashambles, 4-1 Coh Sho No, 5-1 Guest Alliance, 6-1 Code Red, Nothing Doing, 8-1 Mapengo, 12-1 Cavina, 16-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
L Montague Hall	10	48	20.8	W Ryan	34	192	17.7
P Guest	11	62	17.7	D Holland	29	164	17.7
A Hide	4	23	17.4	S Whitworth	34	253	13.4
J [illegible]	20	119	16.8	M Wigham	12	106	11.3
N Graham	9	61	14.8	A Clark	45	405	11.1
N Callaghan	17	117	14.5	S Sanders	39	374	10.4
R Hollinshead	25	188	13.3	Candy Morris	16	160	10.0
Miss G Kelleway	17	133	12.8	F Norton	14	140	10.0

TRAINERS' PREFERENCES

The following are trainers' preferred races for horses engaged at more than one Boxing Day meeting: Hereford: 2.35 Smiley Face. Huntingdon: 12.30 Kamikaze, 1.0 Tristan's Comet, 1.30 Cantoris Frater, Houghton. 2.00 Korbell. Kempton: 2.45 Mister Drum. 3.15 Cokenny Boy, Lansdowne, Peatswood. Market Rasen: 12.30 Chorus Line. 1.35 Sudden Spin, 2.05 Andre Laval; 2.35 Majority Major, Noosa Sound; 3.35 Garlandhayes. 3.5 Denham Hill, Malta Man, Northern Star, Shaagni Ana. Newton Abbot: 2.00 Pearl's Choice. Sedgefield: 12.40 Ski Path, Tribune, 2.10 Kings Senor. 3.10 Dual Image, Glenvally. Wetherby: 12.45 Menaldi, 1.45 Raiitsa; 2.45 Cumbrian Challenge. 3.15 Torch Vert. Wincanton: 2.50 Monday Club; 3.20 Almapa, Howqua River, Fionans Flutter, Palladium Boy. Wolverhampton: 1.00 Ballykine, Hagover, King's Sterling. 1.30 The Shy Padre; 3.30 Yet Again

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER
1.25 Jelali. 2.00 Poucher. 2.35 Court Melody. 3.05 Stormy Passage. 3.35 Kongies Melody. 4.05 The Lancer.

GOING: HEAVY

1.25 THURLESTONE HOTEL JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,091: 2m 1f) (10 runners)
1 1 JELALI 22 (G) D Murray Smith 11-5 R Greene
2 U AAVASAKSA 40 A Newcombe 10-12 Mr M Rimell
3 0 APACHE PARK 27 M Sheppard 10-12 B Powell
4 BALIOS 157F W G M Turner 10-12 N Willmington (7)
5 EL BARDADOR 45F R Hodges 10-12 J Harris (7)
6 KINNESCASH 7F P Bowen 10-12 B Clifford
7 80 SEVEN CROWNS 62 C Popham 10-12 T O'Connor (7)
8 200 STILL HERE 12F P Bowen 10-12 S Wynne
9 CONTRACT BRIDGE 88F P Murphy 10-7 W McFarland
10 4 ROYAL DIVERSION 17 (BF) M Pipe 10-7 G Supple (7)

5-4 Jelali, 11-4 Royal Diversion, 8-1 Balios, Still Here, 10-1 Kinnescash, 12-1 El Bardador, 14-1 others

2.00 HAPPY NEW YEAR NOVICES CHASE (£3,146: 2m 5f 110yd) (13)
1 4-1P BOND JNR 19 (C,G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-5 Mr J Tizzard (7)
2 F-21 POUCHER 23 (CD,S) T Forster 6-11-5 S Wynne
3 213- ANGELO'S DOUBLE 316 (G,S) R Buckler 8-10-12 B Powell
4 F3P2 COUNTRY KEEPER 10 B Ryall 8-10-12 M Griffiths (7)
5 4-3P HANGOVER 20 (G,S) R Lee 10-10-12 2nd pref
6 13U- HOLD YOUR RANKS 237 (S) R Frost 9-10-12 J Frost
7 36-F PENNCALER 17 P Hobbs 6-10-12 B Clifford
8 P/5 SPY DESSA 190 A Newcombe 8-10-12 Mr M Rimell
9 /50 SUPER RITCHART 21 (G,S) B Palling 8-10-12 —
10 P-61 TOP JAVALIN 10 (S) N Hawke 9-10-12 R Greene
11 -US3 COLETTE'S CHOICE 23 (S) G Ham 7-10-7 W McFarland
12 2-43 PEARL'S CHOICE 10 J McConnochie 8-10-7 S Curran
13 -44F STORMY SUNSET 50 (S) W Dennis 9-10-7 Mr T Dennis (7)

3-1 Poucher, 4-1 Bond Jnr, 6-1 Angelo's Double, 10-1 Country Keeper, Pearl's Choice, Hold Your Ranks, 12-1 others.

2.35 LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,681: 3m 2f 110yd) (8)
1 -335 DOM SAMOURAI 8 (B,S) M Pipe 5-11-11 G Supple (7)
2 P-24 COURT MELODY 19 (B,CD,G,S) P Nicholls 8-11-10 Mr J Tizzard (7)
3 11-4 ALLO GEORGE 10 (CD,G,S) A Newcombe 10-11-8 W McFarland
4 251- CANTORIS FRATER 393 (F,S) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-10 2nd pref
5 /3-3 RED PARADE 20 (S) N Hawke 8-10-6 R Greene
6 4-52 THREE SAINTS 23 (S) T Forster 7-10-5 S Wynne
7 231- KEANO 264 (CD,S) P Hobbs 7-10-2 B Powell
8 P-PP GOLDEN OPAL 10 (G,S) R Buckler 11-10-0 M Griffiths (7)

5-2 Court Melody, 3-1 Dom Samourai, 9-2 Keano, 5-1 Allo George, 6-1 Three Saints, 7-1 Keano, 12-1 others

3.05 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,885: 2m 1f) (9)
1 -412 STORMY PASSAGE 6 (CD,BF,S) P Hobbs 6-11-5 B Clifford
2 46- ASHTAR 300 M Pipe 5-11-0 G Supple (7)
3 2-40 COUNTRY TARQUIN 28 R Hodges 4-11-0 J Harris (7)
4 OF DUKES CASTLE 42 R Frost 5-11-0 J Frost
5 00P JACKAMUS 10 G Ham 5-11-0 Mr M Frith (7)
6 3 ONE FOR NAVIGATION 50 (BF) P Nicholls 4-11-0 Mr J Tizzard (7)
7 0-PP DUNNICKS COUNTRY 24 F Tucker 6-10-9 M Griffiths (7)
8 45-0 MADAM MUCK 20 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-9 T Jenks
9 0P TOMORROWS HARVEST 20 R Hodges 4-10-9 B Powell

4-6 Stormy Passage, 4-1 One For Navigation, 8-1 Country Tarquin, Dukes Castle, 10-1 Madam Muck, 20-1 Ashtar, Jackamus, 25-1 others.

3.35 ROYAL CASTLE HOTEL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,327: 2m 6f) (13)
1 8-10 BAYERD 27 (B,S) C Egerton 5-12-0 T Jenks
2 PP2- PAPRIKA 264 A Newcombe 7-11-5 Mr M Rimell
3 60-6 MEL 17 R Buckler 6-10-7 B Powell
4 24-P FAST RUN 30 (F) J Mullins 8-10-6 B Clifford
5 -542 KONGIES MELODY 19 K Bishop 5-10-5 R Greene
6 /0-5 SPIRIT LEVEL 10 J Payne 8-10-4 Mr R Payne
7 PP42 PARADE RACER 29 P Murphy 5-10-3 W McFarland
8 F0/- CARDINAL GAYLE 607 R Alner 6-10-0 A Procter
9 40-5 MAYB-MAYB 69 J Neville 6-10-0 S Wynne
10 4P65 MU-TADIL 24 R Baker 4-10-0 F Jousset
11 0/0 NORDIC FLIGHT 8 R Eckley 8-10-0 Miss C Thomas
12 -P/0 HIGH MOOD 33 T George 6-10-0 C Hynes (7)
13 4-P2 JOY FOR LIFE 10 R Stronge 5-10-0 G Supple (7)

7-2 Kongies Melody, 5-1 Paprika, Parade Racer, 6-1 Bayerd, 8-1 Joy For Life, Mel, 10-1 Fast Run, 12-1 others.

4.05 CHAIRMANS FINALE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,653: 2m 110yd) (8)
1 -134 BENJAMIN LANCASTER 23 (C,D,G,S) M Griffin 12-11-10 M Griffiths (7)
2 2311 THE LANCER 14 (CD,G,S) D Gandolfo 7-11-8 B Clifford
3 4-43 JAILBREAKER 10 (CD,G,S) B Millman 9-11-6 D Salter (5)
4 1115 BIT OF A TOUCH 10 (CD,G,S) R Frost 10-11-5 J Frost
5 P300 GOOD FOR A LAUGH 43 (D,BF,G,S) A Hobbs 12-11-1 Mr G Shenkin (7)
6 2433 FENWICK 20 (D,F,G,S) R Hodges 9-10-12 B Powell
7 65-5 OLLIVER DUCKETT 47 C Popham 7-10-3 S Wynne
8 /4P MISTRESS ROSIE 10 (F,S) M Hill 9-10-0 S Fox

7-4 The Lancer, 7-2 Jailbreaker, Fenwick, 5-1 Benjamin Lancaster, 8-1 Bit Of A Touch, 12-1 Good For A Laugh, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Hobbs, 44 winners from 150 runners, 29.3%; T Forster, 4 from 15, 26.7%; P Nicholls, 34 from 129, 26.4%; M Pipe, 92 from 363, 25.3%; A Newcombe, 9 from 38, 23.7%; C Egerton, 7 from 30, 23.3%.

JOCKEYS: T Jenks, 4 winners from 25 rides, 16.0%; B Clifford, 6 from 38, 15.8%; S Fox, 3 from 29, 10.3%. Only qualifiers.

HEREFORD

THUNDERER
1.05 Melstock Meggie. 1.35 Khatir. 2.05 Kadastrof. 2.35 Raven's Roost. 3.05 Ardent Love. 3.35 Allow.

GOING: GOOD

1.05 GOOSE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,962: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)
1 -113 MELSTOCK MEGGIE 15 (S) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0 G Hogan (3)
2 1-5 ARCTIC TRIUMPH 31 (G) M Bradstock 5-10-12 L Harvey
3 21/ CARROTS 684P (S) Mrs A King 10-10-12 Mr O McPhail (7)
4 COUNTRY LOVER 61F (V) M Pipe 5-10-12 D Walsh
5 5-24 DENHAM HILL 24 C Mann 5-10-12 2nd pref
6 4-22 FINE SIR 19 (BF) T Thomson Jones 6-10-12 D Leahy
7 00 LOOK IN THE MIRROR 34 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 C Llewellyn
8 /00 MINGAY 29 Graham Richards 5-10-12 J Prior (7)
9 /33- PROFESSOR PAGE 404 T Thomson Jones 6-10-12 E Husband (3)
10 3-40 SPRING DOUBLE 24 (G) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 C Llewellyn
11 6 STORMYFAIRWEATHER 36 N Henderson 4-10-12 —
12 2/3 TRISTRAM'S IMAGE 26 (BF) N Henderson 5-10-12 Mr C Vigors (5)
13 0F-4 ARIOSO 36 J Needham 8-10-7 —
14 6PPP LILLY THE FILLY 8 Mrs B Waring 5-10-7 P McLoughlin
15 30-0 LOVE THE BLUES 82 (BF) D Nicholson 4-10-7 Mr R Thornton (5)
16 3 SLIPPERY FIN 24 W G M Turner 4-10-7 J Power (7)

9-4 Country Lover, 4-1 Love The Blues, 5-1 Fine Sir, Tristram's Image, 6-1 Melstock Meggie, 10-1 Spring Double, 12-1 others

1.35 MINCE PIE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,290: 3m 2f) (9)
1 0F-0 WHITEBONNET 31 (B,S) C Egerton 6-12-0 C Llewellyn
2 -823 QUIET MISTRESS 7 (B,S) W Bethell 6-11-11 Mr R Thornton (5)
3 0-04 KHATIR 8 (V,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-8 D Walsh
4 -053 STRIKE-A-POSE 10 (S) B Llewellyn 6-11-8 Mr J L Llewellyn
5 2231 DRAGONMIST 29 (H,S) D Burchell 6-11-2 D J Burchell
6 200- CHILLY LAD 23F R Juckes 5-11-1 E Husband (3)
7 0060 MY SHENANDOAH 8 (BF) H Oliver 5-10-12 Jacqui Oliver
8 0350 AWESTRUCK 17 (B) B Preece 6-10-7 G Hogan (3)
9 PPP- STRATTON FLYER 244 H Howe 6-10-0 L Harvey

5-2 Dragonmist, 4-1 Quiet Mistress, 9-2 Khatir, 5-1 Whitebonnet, 8-1 Strike-A-Pose, My Shenandoah, 10-1 Chilly Lad, 16-1 others.

2.05 PLUM PUDDING NOVICES CHASE (£3,177: 2m) (9)
1 4344 DECYBORG 8 M Pipe 5-11-5 D Walsh
2 2PP1 CAPTAIN STOCKFORD 6 (CD,S) P Wegmann 9-11-5 D J Kavanagh (5)
3 /0P5 ARABIAN BOLD 3 (F,G,S) R Juckes 8-10-12 E Husband (3)
4 066P HUGH DANIELS 55 (V,G) B Preece 8-10-12 Mr A Wintle (7)
5 4-5F ICE MAGIC 51 (V) F Yardley 9-10-12 L Harvey
6 50-2 KADASTROF 12 (S) R Dickin 6-10-12 D Leahy
7 0-4P KINO'S CROSS 20 (S) A J Wilson 7-10-12 G Hogan (3)
8 0-56 PURBECK CAVALIER 20 (B,S) R Alner 7-10-12 Mr R Thornton (5)
9 00-4 SPEEDWELL PRINCE 26 (F) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-12 C Llewellyn

9-4 Speedwell Prince, 4-1 Kadastrof, 9-2 Decyborg, 5-1 Captain Stockford, 7-1 Arabian Bold, Kino's Cross, 16-1 Purbeck Cavalier, 20-1 others

2.35 BLANDFORD BETTING NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,864: 2m 1f) (14)
1 30-F NAGARA SOUND 68 B Preece 5-11-11 Mr R Thornton (5)
2 5/ SNOWSHILL SHAKER 1006 N Twiston-Davies 7-11-9 C Llewellyn
3 4-56 LEWIN JANINE 29 P Ritchens 5-11-7 S Fox
4 630- HOWQUA RIVER 30F P Chapple-Hyam 4-11-6 2nd pref
5 4133 ALMAPA 56 (D,F) R Hodges 4-11-6 2nd pref
6 FP43 COUNTRY MINSTREL 8 (S) S Dow 5-11-0 C Rae (7)
7 1525 RAVEN'S ROOST 20 (CD,BF,F) G Jones 5-11-0 P McLoughlin
8 -30U SAAFI 37 R Baker 5-10-13 D Leahy
9 3502 THE DEACONESS 20 Mrs A King 5-10-9 Mr O McPhail (7)
10 2323 MR POPPLETON 26 R Brotherton 7-10-5 L Harvey
11 -P00 ROYAL GLINT 20 H Haynes 7-10-3 G Hogan (3)
12 5-04 SMILEY FACE 8 R Hodges 4-10-3 D J Burchell
13 -000 THE BREWER 20 J Tuck 4-10-3 D J Kavanagh (5)
14 -004 STORM TIGER 19 S Mellor 5-10-0 E Husband (3)

4-1 Raven's Roost, 5-1 Mr Poppleton, 6-1 Country Minstrel, 7-1 Nagara Sound, Snowshill Shaker, 8-1 Lewin Janine, 10-1 others.

3.05 TOTE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,794: 3m 1f 110yd) (15)
1 51-3 LUGS BRANNIGAN 14 (F) M Bradstock 7-11-10 L Harvey
2 40-6 ARDENT LOVE 10 D Nicholson 7-11-6 Mr R Thornton (5)
3 254P KING'S SHILLING 20 (F,G,S) H Oliver 9-11-1 2nd pref
4 0-51 CERIDWEN 20 (CD,S) T Greathead 6-11-1 D Walsh
5 P-U2 THE WHOLE HOG 20 K Bailey 7-11-0 Mr R Wakley (7)
6 U1-3 JUST ONE CANALETTO 17 (CD,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-0 C Llewellyn
7 364- DARA'S COURSE 210 (F) Miss P Whittle 7-10-10 K Hibbert (7)
8 0462 COOL CHARACTER 14 (G) R Buckler 8-10-8 G Hogan (3)
9 3P-P OVER THE WREKIN 27 J Needham 9-10-8 —
10 -0PP KING'S COURTIER 9 (V) S Mellor 7-10-3 E Husband (3)
11 0-F0 BONNIFER 24 M Wilkinson 7-10-3 T J O'Sullivan
12 0002 IRISH PERRY 10 T Morton 9-10-3 P McLoughlin
13 UP33 CARDINAL RULE 29 Miss V Williams 7-10-2 D J Kavanagh
14 56-F FULL SHILLING 16 D Williams 7-10-0 M Clarke
15 /05 ABSOLATUM 20 (F,G) J Parfitt 9-10-0 D J Burchell

9-2 Lugs Brannigan, 5-1 Ardent Love, 6-1 Ceridwen, 7-1 Just One Canaletto, 8-1 The Whole Hog, Cool Character, 10-1 Bonnifer, 12-1 others

3.35 HUGHES CATERERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,282: 2m 3f 110yd) (11)
1 -132 NORDIC BREEZE 50 (B,BF,F) M Pipe 4-11-12 D Walsh
2 -4P2 RAMSDENS 41 (BF,G) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-10 C Llewellyn
3 0F33 FLEUR DE TAL 28 (F,G) W G M Turner 5-11-4 J Power (7)
4 5141 ALLOW 27 (D,G,S) B Llewellyn 5-11-3 D J Kavanagh (5)
5 -P53 DAILY SPORT GIRL 10 (F,G,S) B Llewellyn 7-11-0 Mr J L Llewellyn
6 5265 SWAN STREET 14 C Mann 5-10-7 J Magee (3)
7 1 ZESTI 22 (G) T Clement 4-10-4 L Harvey
8 45-4 VISCOUNT TULLY 15 (S) C Jackson 11-10-2 Miss S Jackson
9 0203 BRIGHT SAPPHIRE 3 (F,G,S) D Burchell 10-10-0 D J Burchell
10 0336 BATTY'S ISLAND 48 (F,G,S) B Preece 7-10-0 J Mogford (7)
11 3450 ALWILLAR 36 (V,F,G,S) J Parfitt 8-10-0 D J Burchell

7-2 Allow, 4-1 Ramsdens, 5-1 Nordic Breeze, 6-1 Swan Street, 7-1 Fleur De Tal, 8-1 Zesti, 10-1 Bright Sapphire, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Henderson, 14 winners from 28 runners, 50.0%; C Mann, 3 from 6, 50.0%; M Pipe, 34 from 104, 32.7%; N Twiston-Davies, 27 from 89, 30.3%; D Nicholson, 10 from 35, 28.6%.

JOCKEYS: C Llewellyn, 19 winners from 68 rides, 27.9%; P McLoughlin, 6 from 41, 14.6%; D J Burchell, 6 from 44, 13.6%; T Dascombe, 4 from 37, 10.8%. Only qualifiers.

WINCANTON

THUNDERER
12.45 Mrs Em. 1.15 Badastan. 1.45 Cadougold. 2.20 Boro Vacation. 2.50 Fine Harvest. 3.20 Canary Falcon.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

12.45 FATHER CHRISTMAS FILLIES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,285: 2m) (9 runners)
1 1- BARRIER EXPRESS 234 (F) Miss H Knight 10-10 B Fenton
2 4-55 BAY FAIR 15 J Bosley 10-10 M Bosley
3 40 DAYDREAM BELIEVER 24 M Salaman 10-10 G Tormey
4 0-6 GALE SPRING 47 R Hodges 10-10 T Dascombe (3)
5 2-00 LOCH NA KEAL 14 C Morlock 10-10 S McNeill
6 11 MRS EM 17 (F,S) P Nicholls 10-10 D Burrows (5)
7 NEARLY A SCORE G Balding 10-10 P Holley
8 ORCHID HOUSE N Mitchell 10-10 S Curran
9 50 WEST BAY BREEZE 24 R Buckler 10-10 T J Murphy

7-4 Mrs Em, 5-2 Barrier Express, 9-2 Bay Fair, 5-1 Loch Na Keal, 10-1 Gale Spring, 12-1 Nearly A Score, 16-1 others.

1.15 LORD STALBRIDGE MEMORIAL GOLD CUP (Handicap chase: £7,133. 3m 1f 110yd) (5)
1 F-5P DEXTRA DOVE 5 (C,D,F,G,S) S Earle 9-11-13 P Holley
2 23-1 BADASTAN 24 (B,D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 7-10-5 G Tormey
3 1-16 ANDRE LAVAL 20 (CD,G,S) K Bailey 7-10-3 2nd pref
4 -P33 WELL BRIEFED 15 (F,G,S) R Buckler 9-10-3 T J Murphy
5 13UP BIG BEN DUN 7 (F,G,S) C Brooks 10-10-2 S McNeill

6-4 Badastan, 7-4 Dextra Dove, 4-1 Well Briefed, 12-1 Big Ben Dun.

1.45 WINCANTON GOLD CARD HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier. £5,020: 2m 6f) (18)
1 1121 FREDDIE MUCK 8 (F,G) N Twiston-Davies 6-12-3 (8ex) M Keighley (7)
2 -341 CADOUGOLD 19 (F,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-13 Mr A Farrant
3 6/0- BRAVE TORNADO 453 (S) G Balding 5-11-11 R Arnold
4 -312 SPARKLING YASMIN 19 (D,S) P Hobbs 4-11-8 M Moran (7)
5 2124 LANSDOWNE 29 (CD,G,S) P Nicholls 8-11-8 2nd pref
6 FR-4 PEATSWOOD 57 (F,G,S) M Channon 8-11-2 2nd pref
7 2212 MORSTOCK 24 (C,G) R Hodges 6-10-9 T Dascombe (3)
8 -110 HAILE DERRING 19 (CD,BF,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-9 L Suthern (7)
9 0/2 DIWALI DANCER 15 (G,S) M Pipe 6-10-9 G Tormey
10 F31P DUHALLOW LODGE 8 (D,F,G,S) C Barwell 9-10-7 B Fenton
11 -214 GENERAL TONIC 8 (G,S) D Gandolfo 9-10-6 S Curran
12 -515 COKENNY BOY 10 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 11-10-5 2nd pref
13 P226 TIPPING THE LINE 39 (F,G) M Pipe 6-10-2 P Holley
14 1113 GENERAL MOUKTAR 16 (CD,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-10-2 Sophie Mitchell (5)
15 2/1 ROCKCLIFFE LAD 12 (S) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-0 Mr M Rimell
16 2111 LETS BE FRANK 10 (F,G,S) N Chance 5-10-0 (4ex) T J Murphy
17 -415 GLISTENING DAWN 24 (B,BF,F,S) T Keddy 6-10-0 S McNeill
18 -111 SNOW BOARD 19 (F,S) Mrs M Jones 7-10-0 —

5-1 Cadougold, 7-1 Freddie Muck, Snow Board, 8-1 Sparkling Yasmin, Haile Derring, 10-1 Lets Be Frank, 12-1 others.

2.20 MID SEASON CHASE (£7,133: 2m 5f) (4)
1 -S0U BORO VACATION 82 (F,G) P Nicholls 7-11-4 D Burrows
2 -64P KINDLE'S DELIGHT 20 (B,F,G) Miss H Knight 8-11-4 T J Murphy
3 -223 SOUTHAMPTON 33 (V,F,G,S) G Balding 6-11-4 B Fenton
4 3-FF WOT NO GIN 20 A J Wilson 7-10-12 S McNeill

6-4 Boro Vacation, 9-4 Southampton, 3-1 Wot No Gin, 7-1 Kindle's Delight.

2.50 HARRY DUFOSEE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,633: 2m) (5)
1 -1F1 FINE HARVEST 26 (D,F,G) J Spearing 10-11-12 T J Murphy
2 2214 NEWLANDS-GENERAL 24 (D,BF,G,S) P Nicholls 10-11-8 D Burrows (5)
3 1212 SCOTTISH BAMBI 6 (D,BF,F,S) P Webber 8-10-7 S Curran
4 P-P5 MONDAY CLUB 26 (D,F,G,S) J Tuck 12-10-4 S McNeill
5 /F0 MISS MARIGOLD 29 (F,G,S) R Hodges 7-10-0 T Dascombe (3)

6-4 Fine Harvest, 9-4 Newlands-General, 4-1 Scottish Bambi, 7-1 Miss Marigold, 14-1 Monday Club

3.20 STIRRUP CUP NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,530: 2m) (15)
1 56-4 SHOW FAITH 14 R Hannon 6-11-10 Sophie Mitchell (5)
2 2116 CANARY FALCON 13 (D,BF,F,S) R O'Sullivan 5-11-8 N Willmington (7)
3 6/0- FIONANS FLUTTER 385 (S) D Elsworth 8-11-7 P Holley
4 20-2 JOSHUA'S VISION 222 R Lee 5-11-5 —
5 2566 ABOVE THE CUT 8 C Morlock 4-11-3 B Fenton
6 F6-3 FABULOUS MTOTO 14 M Saunders 6-11-2 G Tormey
7 306 SAHEL 14 J Mullins 8-11-0 S Curran
8 0352 CADDY'S FIRST 17 (V) S Mellor 4-10-13 S Hearn (7)
9 630- HOWQUA RIVER 30F P Chapple-Hyam 4-10-11 D Burrows (5)
10 4133 ALMAPA 56 (F) R Hodges 4-10-11 T Dascombe (3)
11 -305 QUAKER WALTZ 24 J Tuck 6-10-9 S McNeill
12 5343 FASTINI GOLD 8 M Usher 4-10-0 W McFarland
13 /0/ CONCINNITY 528F B Scriven 7-10-0 Mr A Holdsworth
14 5-04 SMILEY FACE 8 R Hodges 4-10-0 2nd pref
15 P-0P PALLADIUM BOY 20 Mrs J Retter 6-10-0 T J Murphy

7-2 Show Faith, 6-1 Canary Falcon, 7-1 Fabulous Mtoto, 8-1 Fionans Flutter, 10-1 Almapa, Sahel, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 36 winners from 133 runners, 27.1%; Mrs J Pitman, 16 from 66, 24.2%; Miss H Knight, 7 from 30, 23.3%; D Gandolfo, 7 from 32, 21.9%; N Twiston-Davies, 10 from 47, 21.3%; K Bailey, 10 from 60, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: D Burrows, 3 winners from 14 rides, 21.4%; T Dascombe, 6 from 48, 12.5%; S McNeill, 8 from 68, 11.8%; W McFarland, 3 from 27, 11.1%. Only qualifiers.

□ A further two all-weather meetings have been added to the week's programme as the British Horseracing Board seeks to beat a spate of potential abandonments. The extra fixtures are at Southwell on Friday and Wolverhampton on Saturday.

HUNTINGDON

THUNDERER
12.30 Wisley Wonder. 1.00 Topsawyer. 1.30 Sugar Hill. 2.00 Flying Gunner. 2.30 Scoresheet. 3.00 Skycab.

GOING: GOOD (10AM INSPECTION THURSDAY)

12.30 CHRISTMAS TIDE NOVICES CHASE (£3,560: 2m 4f 110yd) (9 runners)
1 1211 MISTER DRUM 20 (CD,F,G,S) M Wilkinson 7-11-12 2nd pref
2 34-4 FLIPPANCE 20 N Gaselee 6-10-12 W Marston
3 2-43 HAUNTING MUSIC 17 (G) Mrs A Perrett 8-10-12 D Gallagher
4 F-P2 JAC DEL PRINCE 29 P Nicholls 6-10-12 I Lawrence
5 4U JOLLY BOAT 6 (F,G,S) F Jordan 9-10-12 L Aspell (3)
6 040- KAMIKAZE 221F (B,G) K Bailey 6-10-12 A Thornton
7 0-04 SAFEGLIDE 9 J Gifford 6-10-12 P Hide
8 5-2F THE SHY PADRE 15 Mrs J Pitman 7-10-12 2nd pref
9 U432 WISLEY WONDER 19 (B,BF,F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-12 D Bridgwater

1-2 Wisley Wonder, 5-1 Haunting Music, 7-1 Jac Del Prince, 10-1 Kamikaze, Flippance, 12-1 others.

1.00 CHRISTMAS BOX HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,213: 2m 5f 110yd) (10)
1 -664 MANEREE 17 (C,D,F,G,S) N Callaghan 9-12-0 R Massey (3)
2 0/1 TRIBUNE 56 (D,F,G) C Thornton 5-12-0 2nd pref
3 /15- TOPSAWYER 349 (F,G) Miss S Hall 8-11-13 A Thornton
4 13-0 CAMBO 21 (D,F,G,S) M Banks 10-11-11 I Lawrence
5 640- BOYFRIEND 282 (F) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-9 W Marston
6 12P4 FIRST CRACK 22 (CD,F,G,S) F Jordan 11-11-4 L Aspell (3)
7 04-0 TRISTAN'S COMET 200 (G,S) J L Harris 9-10-13 D Gallagher
8 -330 KATBALLOU 14 K Wingrove 7-10-0 Ann Stokell
9 5/U THE WEATHERMAN 36 A Jessop 8-10-0 J R Kavanagh
10 /FU SCORPION BAY 30 D ffrench Davis 8-10-0 A Bates (5)

3-1 First Crack, 7-2 Topsawyer, 4-1 Maneree, 6-1 Boyfriend, 7-1 Cambo, 8-1 Katballou, 10-1 Tristan's Comet, 12-1 others.

1.30 BEDFORD LODGE HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,264: 3m) (12)
1 /3-U YEOMAN WARRIOR 13 (S) R Rowe 9-11-10 D O'Sullivan
2 261- CANTORIS FRATER 393 (F,S) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-9 W Marston
3 30/ DARREN THE BRAVE 604 (D,S) C Brooks 8-11-8 D Gallagher
4 -214 SOLO GENT 14 (CD,F,G,S) A Jones 7-11-3 D Bridgwater
5 6433 HOUGHTON 22 (F,G,S) W Jenks 10-11-2 Mr R Burton (7)
6 1/6- TRIBAL RULER 426 (D,F,G,S) D McCain 11-10-12 —
7 2521 SUGAR HILL 16 (CD,S) J Gifford 6-10-12 P Hide
8 3-12 EASTERN RIVER 24 (BF,G,S) T Forster 10-10-7 A Thornton
9 /40 RUBINS BOY 19 (F) N Walker 10-10-2 D Finnegan (7)
10 21-5 PANT LLIN 3 (CD,F) F Jordan 10-10-2 L Aspell (3)
11 6211 CALL ME RIVER 14 (D,S) P Hedger 8-10-1 I Lawrence
12 64-0 NIGHT FANCY 9 Mrs A Woodrow 8-10-0 J R Kavanagh

7-2 Call Me River, 9-2 Cantoris Frater, 5-1 Sugar Hill, 6-1 Solo Gent, 7-1 Eastern River, 8-1 Darren The Brave, 10-1 others

2.00 FESTIVE SPIRIT NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,740: 3m 2f) (11)
1 -212 FLYING GUNNER 34 (BF,S) D Nicholson 5-11-5 R Massey (3)
2 0-21 SALMON BREEZE 33 (F,G) N Henderson 5-11-5 J R Kavanagh
3 30-6 BANK AVENUE 19 Mrs J Pitman 5-10-12 W Marston
4 60 BURFORDS FOR SCRAP 24 R Dickin 4-10-12 X Aizpuru (7)
5 00-P CLASSIC JESTER 190 R Champion 5-10-12 P Hide
6 6060 MONTECOT 75 S Mellor 7-10-12 N Mann
7 31-0 NORTHERN STAR 19 (F) J Pickering 5-10-12 2nd pref
8 3-60 SAMMORELLO 19 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 D Bridgwater
9 2 KORBELL 17 (F,G,S) P Nicholls 7-10-7 L Cummins (7)
10 0-33 LADY HIGH SHERIFF 30 T Forster 6-10-7 Mr C Ward Thomas
11 0-03 PAVLOVA 22 R Rowe 6-10-7 D O'Sullivan

2-1 Korbell, 3-1 Flying Gunner, 7-2 Salmon Breeze, 8-1 Sammorello, Bank Avenue, 10-1 Pavlova, 12-1 Lady High Sheriff, 14-1 others

2.30 BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,868: 2m 110yd) (6)
1 P-P5 MONDAY CLUB 26 (D,F,G,S) J Tuck 12-11-11 2nd pref
2 -P42 CORRARDER 3 (D,F,G) J Smyth-Osbourne 12-11-11 W Marston
3 1243 CRAFTY CHAPLAIN 10 (D,F,G,S) D McCain 10-11-8 D Bridgwater
4 /1-1 SCORESHEET 31 (D,F,G) J Gifford 6-11-4 P Hide
5 F45P SHREWD JOHN 44 (CD,F,G) Miss K George 10-11-2 J R Kavanagh
6 43-3 DANTE'S VIEW 8 (F) P Hedger 8-11-2 D O'Sullivan

5-4 Scoresheet, 5-2 Dante's View, 5-1 Crafty Chaplain, 6-1 Corrarder, 14-1 Shrewd John

3.00 MISTLETOE STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,508: 2m 110yd) (17)
1 41- DUBLIN FREDDY 315 (D,S) Miss V Williams 5-11-11 A Thornton
2 1 THE LADY CAPTAIN 20 (G) D Thom 4-11-6 D Gallagher
3 IN THE VAN Mrs D Haine 4-11-4 R Massey (3)
4 0- LUDO'S ORCHESTRA 260 M Campion 5-11-4 L Aspell (3)
5 MAJESTIC AFFAIR N Henderson 4-11-4 J R Kavanagh
6 MUALLAF Mrs A Woodrow 4-11-4 —
7 244- MY BUSTER 262 Miss S Hall 4-11-4 P Midgley
8 SILLE ME G Hubbard 4-11-4 N Rossiter (7)
9 SKYCAB J Gifford 4-11-4 P Hide
10 WELSH ASSET K Wingrove 5-11-4 J Ryan
11 WISLEY WARRIOR N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 D Bridgwater
12 0 AINTGOTWON 31 A Hide 5-10-13 D O'Sullivan
13 ARTIC MEADOW A Jessop 5-10-13 X Aizpuru (7)
14 HOT 'N SAUCY A Jones 4-10-13 W Marston
15 0 LUCRATIVE PERK 19 Miss C Caroe 4-10-13 I Lawrence
16 5-6 MAGGIE STRAIT 8 Mrs A King 4-10-13 L Cummins (7)
17 0 SWEET MOUNT 19 N Twiston-Davies 4-10-13 L Suthern (7)

3-1 Wisley Warrior, 7-2 Dublin Freddy, 5-1 Majestic Affair, 6-1 Skycab, My Buster, 8-1 The Lady Captain, 10-1 Sille Me, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 21 winners from 59 runners, 35.6%; N Henderson, 10 from 37, 27.0%; D Nicholson, 12 from 50, 24.0%; F Jordan, 3 from 13, 23.1%; J Gifford, 16 from 70, 22.9%; Mrs J Pitman, 8 from 36, 22.2%; N Callaghan, 3 from 14, 21.4%.

JOCKEYS: P Hide, 17 winners from 55 rides, 30.9%; L Aspell, 5 from 19, 26.3%; W Marston, 10 from 50, 20.0%; A Thornton, 6 from 34, 17.6%; J Tilley, 4 from 23, 17.4%; S McNeill, 9 from 52, 17.3%; J Ryan, 7 from 41, 17.1%.

RUGBY UNION: CARDIFF GIVEN SEMI-FINAL BOOST

Referees end dispute

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE final league Saturday of 1996 in Wales will go ahead after the resolution of the referees' pay dispute, which caused the postponement of most of the club programme last weekend. Cardiff, who play Brive in the Heineken Cup semi-finals on January 5, will now get the vital preparation that they need with a derby against Pontypridd.

However, the two-week dispute with the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) has caused bitterness among the referees. "Nobody ever thought it would come down to a strike," Hugh Banfield, the secretary of the Welsh Society of Rugby Union Referees, said, "but nobody thought the WRU would so grossly mismanage and mishandle this dispute. There are still strong feelings among some of our people, although we have accepted the WRU's revised offer because we've had to put rugby first."

By holding out in so unified a manner — only half a dozen cup matches were played last weekend, along with a handful of games in the lower divisions — the referees have won a sliding pay scale that extends across the top five divisions. The WRU sought to offer payment only to officials operating in the first and second divisions. It has also conceded that pay should be backdated to August 31.

Referees handling first division matches will receive £125, reducing to £30 for the fourth and fifth divisions. The package will cost the union around £60,000 this season, and there could be a revision before next season, when the WRU hopes to have referees on contract.

"It was an embarrassing episode and, as committee chairman, I am more embarrassed than most," Terry Vaux, the chairman of the WRU referees' committee, said. "I take my share of the responsibility." The pay award contrasts with the fees available in England, where first division referees earn £200 a match and those involved in fourth division matches earn £75.

Meanwhile, Welsh clubs face only intermittent league rugby over the next two months because of cup and international requirements, and therefore limited gate receipts. The WRU has commissioned a report by Price Waterhouse into the financial affairs of all 12 first division clubs, and Stuart Gallacher, the chairman of Llanelli, has told his squad that their positions will have to be reviewed in the new year.

"At the moment we are able to pay the wages ... but I wanted to keep the players abreast of what is going on," Gallacher, whose hopes of a £3 million agreement with a local business consortium fell through last month, said. "I'm doing my best to see the players are supported as much as possible."

☐ David Robinson, who represented Eastern Counties on the Rugby Football Union (RFU) general committee from 1988 to 1995 and was the union's treasurer for eight months, had died, aged 64. He had been ill for several months yet continued to represent RFU interests with vigour, notably during the five nations' championship dispute earlier this year. "We shall miss his wise counsel and sense of humour," Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said.

DAVID ROGERS / ALLSPORT

Moore watches from the touchline as Sale kick a last-minute penalty goal to beat Richmond

Club decides not to punish Moore after cup dismissal

RICHMOND will take no action after the dismissal of Brian Moore, the former England hooker, during their Pilkington Cup tie with Sale last Saturday (David Hands writes). The club has reviewed the incident, during which Moore was sent off for stamping on an opponent at a maul, and will await the decision of the Rugby Football Union's disciplinary panel.

Until that time, Moore remains free to play, but the recommended punishment for his offence is a 60-day suspension. "We looked at the video very closely," Vinny Codrington, the director of rugby at Richmond, said. "We think it was a very harsh sending-off, which probably cost us the match."

Chris White, the referee, did not consult his touch judge, but his attitude, in the week when referees have been given food for thought by the failure of the appeal in the Ben Smoldon case, must be applauded, however much players of considerable international experience believe Moore's actions did not justify the dismissal.

AYR

THUNDERER
12.25 Stylish Interval. 12.55 Sparky Gayle. 1.25 Trap Dancer. 1.55 Mr Knitwit. 2.25 Island Chief. 2.55 Military Academy.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS
(INSPECTION 10AM TOMORROW)

12.25 PORT 'N' BRANDY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,954: 2m) (9 runners)
1 5010 STYLISH INTERVAL 10 (D,F) N Waggott 4-12-0 P Carberry
2 4541 TRIENNIUM 9 (D,F) P Monteith 7-11-10 (7ex) R Supple
3 /60 NOORAN 43 A Whillans 5-10-10 S Taylor (5)
4 5-46 DOUBLING DICE 16 R Allan 5-10-8 S Melrose (7)
5 0-34 TIOTAO 13 C Parker 6-10-8 D Parker
6 -060 GRINNELL 41 (V) D McCune 6-10-3 K Johnson
7 PP-5 SCHOOL OF SCIENCE 9 D Nolan 6-10-0 S McDougall
8 -000 MEADOWLECK 15 W Young 7-10-0 B Storey
9 0502 SECONDS AWAY 9 J Goldie 5-10-0 L O'Hara
9-4 Triennium, 5-2 Doubling Dice, 5-1 Stylish Interval, 6-1 Tiotao, 10-1 Nooran, 12-1 Seconds Away, 16-1 others.

12.55 GOOSE NOVICES CHASE (£2,863: 2m) (7)
1 4-11 SPARKY GAYLE 26 (CD,F,G,S) C Parker 6-11-10 B Storey
2 -252 BOLD BOSS 20 (G,S) G Moore 7-10-12 N Bentley
3 1P/ EMERALD SEA 693 (S) J Barclay 9-10-12 D Parker
4 -005 GRAND AS OWT 7 D McCune 6-10-12 K Johnson
5 -3FP JACK DOYLE 20 (G) J J O'Neill 5-10-12 P Carberry
6 524- RALLEGIO 236 (S) P Monteith 7-10-12 R Supple
7 /0-F GLINT OF AYR 24 R Goldie 6-10-7 L O'Hara
4-5 Sparky Gayle, 7-2 Bold Boss, 6-1 Jack Doyle, 10-1 Rallegio, 20-1 Emerald Sea, Grand As Owt, 25-1 Glint Of Ayr.

1.25 EVENING TIMES NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,998: 2m 4f) (13)
1 3-64 ANOTHER VENTURE 16 (S) F Murphy 6-11-10 P Carberry
2 /1P MONNAIE FORTE 27 (CD,G,S) J Adam 6-11-10 K Johnson
3 2122 TRAP DANCER 17 (BF,G) P Monteith 8-11-9 Mr R Hale
4 122F BALLYLINE 30 (G) W Kemp 5-11-8 2nd pref
5 66-1 MAJORITY MAJOR 23 (G,S) P Cheesbrough 7-11-4 2nd pref
6 045- MASTER OF TROY 372 (F,G,S) C Parker 8-11-0 D Parker
7 3348 WHITE DIAMOND 17 (F,S) Miss L Russell 8-10-13 L O'Hara
8 4FFP SHOW YOUR HAND 8 (D,F) L Lungo 8-10-11 N Bentley
9 3-03 SINGING SAND 10 P Monteith 6-10-8 R Supple
10 -08U NUWAY 29 (S) M Barnes 6-10-7 S Taylor (5)
11 U044 MUSIC BLITZ 16 Mrs D Thomson 5-10-7 —
12 -U00 FINE TUNE 29 Mrs S Bradburne 6-10-0 Michael Brennan (5)
13 446P BRIGHT DESTINY 16 J Goldie 5-10-0 G Lee (3)
7-2 Majority Major, 4-1 Show Your Hand, 6-1 Another Venture, 7-1 Master Of Troy, 8-1 Singing Sand, Trap Dancer, 10-1 Ballyline, 16-1 others.

1.55 WHISKY MAC HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,980: 2m 4f) (8)
1 112- ARAGON AYR 317 (CD,G,S) P Monteith 8-12-0 D Parker
2 /42 MR KNITWIT 24 (CD,G) P Monteith 9-11-11 R Supple
3 32-5 COMMON SOUND 43 (S) J Barclay 5-11-9 B Storey
4 -406 MASTER HYDE 15 (CD,F) W Storey 7-10-13 K Johnson
5 24-0 GIVE BEST 26 (C,G,S) J J O'Neill 5-10-11 P Carberry
6 2-26 CRYSTAL GIFT 26 (S) A Whillans 4-10-9 S Taylor (5)
7 1335 NICHOLAS PLANT 24 (CD,F,S) J Goldie 7-10-0 L O'Hara
8 150- TURKISH TOWER 232 (G) R Nixon 5-10-0 N Bentley
3-1 Aragon Ayr, 4-1 Mr Knitwit, 5-1 Crystal Gift, Master Hyde, 6-1 Give Best, 8-1 Nicholas Plant, 10-1 Common Sound, 12-1 others.

2.25 FIELD AND LAWN HANDICAP CHASE (£3,100: 3m 1f) (4)
1 1F-1 ISLAND CHIEF 19 (CD,G,S) P Beaumont 7-11-10 R Supple
2 1412 SEEKING GOLD 15 (D,F,G) J Barclay 7-10-0 B Storey
3 6-PF FUNNY OLD GAME 8 (C,S) D McCune 9-10-0 K Johnson
4 2U26 WILLIE SPARKLE 16 (F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 10-10-0 Michael Brennan (5)
4-11 Island Chief, 9-2 Seeking Gold, 7-1 Willie Sparkle, 8-1 Funny Old Game.

2.55 IVY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,124: 2m 4f) (20)
1 /13 MILITARY ACADEMY 26 (G) G Richards 7-11-5 P Carberry
2 2-62 CALLERNISH DAN 19 M Todhunter 6-10-12 Michael Brennan (5)
3 3-P5 DRAKEWRATH 24 (G) R Bartlett 6-10-12 D Parker
4 500 FOUR FROM HOME 22 J J O'Neill 4-10-12 D Jewett (7)
5 /54- HOBKIRK 300 A Whillans 7-10-12 F Perratt
6 0-U0 JUDICIOUS NORMAN 27 J Adam 5-10-12 K Johnson
7 0/2 MALTA MAN 24 P Cheesbrough 6-10-12 2nd pref
8 60 MENALDI 26 P Cheesbrough 6-10-12 2nd pref
9 4-30 PHAR ECHO 26 L Lungo 5-10-12 I Jardine (7)
10 0P- SOLSGIRTH 317 J Barclay 5-10-12 S Melrose (7)
11 50 SUNNY LEITH 24 P Monteith 5-10-12 Mr R Hale
12 4 YEWCROFT BOY 16 M Barnes 5-10-12 S Taylor (5)
13 0-0- KINGS HIGH 565 W Kemp 6-10-9 S McDougall
14 143 NUTTY SOLERA 9 (BF,G) C Parker 6-10-9 B Storey
15 00 POLITICAL MILLSTAR 23 R Nixon 4-10-9 N Bentley
16 4P0 WATER FONT 8 J J O'Neill 4-10-9 A Roche
17 065- MARTHA BUCKLE 246 J Goldie 7-10-7 L O'Hara
18 PP-4 MORE CHAMPAGNE 24 Mrs D Thomson 6-10-7 —
19 /0 OUR WILMA 829 Mrs D Thomson 7-10-7 —
20 42-2 CHERRY DEE 23 P Beaumont 5-10-4 R Supple
3-1 Military Academy, 5-1 Malta Man, 6-1 Callernish Dan, 7-1 Cherry Dee, 8-1 Nutty Solera, 10-1 Judicious Norman, Phar Echo, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Richards, 45 winners from 174 runners, 25.9%; A Whillans, 6 from 29, 20.7%; J J O'Neill, 20 from 97, 20.6%; C Parker, 17 from 101, 16.8%; G Moore, 8 from 59, 13.6%; P Cheesbrough, 4 from 30, 13.3%; L Lungo, 11 from 103, 10.7%; J S Goldie, 4 from 39, 10.3%.

JOCKEYS: B Storey, 23 winners from 159 rides, 14.5%. Only qualifier.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
1.00 Mammy's Choice. 1.30 Father Sky. 2.00 Callisoe Bay. 2.30 Korbell. 3.00 Furietto. 3.30 Stash The Cash.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.00 NEW JUMPING COURSE'S NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£5,857: 2m 4f 110yd) (10 runners)
1 11-3 THE MINE CAPTAIN 24 (D,F,G) O Sherwood 9-11-10 J Osborne
2 334U HOLY WANDERER 3 (F,G) T George 7-11-8 R Farrant
3 /11 MAMMY'S CHOICE 17 (S) R Alner 6-11-7 P Henley (3)
4 122F BALLYLINE 30 (G) W Kemp 5-11-0 J Callaghan
5 332F WILLIE MAKEIT 9 (D,F,G) R Phillips 8-10-9 J Railton
6 254P KING'S SHILLING 20 (F,G,S) H Oliver 9-10-5 Jacqui Oliver
7 4-3P HANGOVER 30 (G,S) R Lee 10-10-1 G Hogan (3)
8 6503 SAYMORE 7 (F,G,S) W Clay 10-10-0 T Eley
9 0245 TOTAL ASSET 16 A Forbes 6-10-0 Gary Lyons
10 3400 SAKBAH 16 J Pickering 7-10-0 M Brennan
2-1 Mammy's Choice, 11-4 The Mine Captain, 6-1 Holy Wanderer, 8-1 Ballyline, Willie Makeit, 10-1 Hangover, 14-1 others.

1.30 PLYVINE CATERING NOVICES CHASE (£7,100: 3m 1f) (8)
1 1322 FATHER SKY 12 (B,F) O Sherwood 5-11-6 J Osborne
2 2460 GEORGE ASHFORD 6 (F,G) P Johnson 6-11-5 M Sharratt
3 00-1 NOYAN 17 (F,G) R Fahey 6-11-5 J Railton
4 040- KAMIKAZE 221F (G) K Bailey 6-11-0 2nd pref
5 5-2F THE SHY PADRE 15 Mrs J Pitman 7-11-0 R Farrant
6 -F52 WIXOE WONDER 20 M Bradstock 6-11-0 P Henley
7 0P-0 CAREYSVILLE 24 T George 5-10-13 —
8 P0-0 MASKED MARTIN 14 P Rodford 5-10-13 S Burrough
6-4 Father Sky, 9-4 Noyan, 5-1 The Shy Padre, 6-1 Kamikaze, 8-1 George Ashford, 12-1 Wixoe Wonder, 20-1 others.

2.00 HARRY BROWN MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£14,070: 2m) (9)
1 0U-2 CLAY COUNTY 68 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 11-12-0 R Garritty
2 P-43 SOUND REVEILLE 12 (D,G,S) C Brooks 8-11-8 M Berry (7)
3 -122 CALLISOE BAY 13 (D,F,G,S) O Sherwood 7-11-7 J Osborne
4 224- TIME WON'T WAIT 232 (D,F,G) R Phillips 7-11-6 J Railton
5 3312 THUMBS UP 24 (D,F,G,S) G McCourt 10-10-11 R Farrant
6 5021 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 13 (D,F,G,S) T Easterby 7-10-11 2nd pref
7 25-4 WEE RIVER 19 (D,F,G,S) G Moore 7-10-8 J Callaghan
8 6433 HOUGHTON 22 (B,F,G,S) W Jenks 10-10-0 2nd pref
9 -5P3 WAGGIO 16 (G,S) A Forbes 8-10-0 Gary Lyons
2-1 Callisoe Bay, 3-1 Thumbs Up, 7-2 Clay County, 7-1 Sound Reveille, 8-1 Wee River, 12-1 others.

2.30 HAGUE FASTENERS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,640: 3m 1f) (10)
1 2213 ANTARCTIC WIND 23 (F) M Hammond 6-11-3 R Garritty
2 16-1 LANCE ARMSTRONG 22 (G,S) G McCourt 6-11-3 J Osborne
3 3133 PRUSSIA 5 (F) W Clay 5-11-3 T Eley
4 0-0 DECENT THE SECOND 14 P Rodford 4-10-12 S Burrough
5 0/ GINGE 234P Miss J Bower 7-10-12 Gary Lyons
6 P-0 MOOR DANCE MAN 26 N Littmoden 6-10-12 Mr D Verco
7 P02- TORCH VERT 47F N Walker 4-10-12 2nd pref
8 004 WEATHER WISE 33 W G M Turner 4-10-12 J Railton
9 -405 BLAZING MIRACLE 8 Mrs R Henderson 4-10-7 Mr W Henderson
10 2 KORBELL 17 (F,G,S) P Nicholls 7-10-7 L Cummins (7)
9-4 Korbell, 11-4 Lance Armstrong, 5-1 Prussia, 11-2 Antarctic Wind, 8-1 Blazing Miracle, 12-1 Weather Wise, 20-1 others.

3.00 DUNSTALL PARK'S JUMPING AGAIN SELLING HURDLE (£2,547: 2m) (14)
1 -2F2 FURIETTO 8 (BF,F) M Hammond 6-11-3 R Garritty
2 FF50 AL HELAL 16 (V) J Jenkins 4-10-12 R Farrant
3 3F00 FOLLOW DE CALL 20 D McCain 6-10-12 P Henley (3)
4 44-P IL TRASTEVERE 10 Miss G Kelleway 4-10-12 A Bates (5)
5 4 LAST ROUNDUP 15 C Thornton 4-10-12 N Horrocks (7)
6 0020 NIGHT BOAT 8 W Clay 5-10-12 T Eley
7 0P-5 PRINCE RICO 78 D McCain 5-10-12 A Lamach
8 /P-P SCBOO 47 R Peacock 7-10-12 J Callaghan
9 02/ SHAAGNI ANA 621 J Smyth-Osbourne 5-10-12 2nd pref
10 4 TE AMO 14 M Pipe 4-10-12 J Osborne
11 0-04 TEE TEE TOO 17 A Carroll 4-10-12 J Railton
12 0050 YOUNG BENSON 34 (V) T Wall 4-10-12 M Berry (7)
13 U535 FEMAN COURT 15 (BF,B) Miss J Bower 5-10-7 Gary Lyons
14 GARLANDHAYES 205F Miss K George 4-10-7 2nd pref
11-4 Furietto, 5-1 Te Amo, 6-1 Last Roundup, 8-1 Il Trastevere, Feman Court, Night Boat, 12-1 others.

3.30 BOXING DAY HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,200: 2m) (9)
1 1144 YUBRALEE 29 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 4-11-13 J Osborne
2 -211 STASH THE CASH 17 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 5-11-9 R Garritty
3 211 YET AGAIN 14 (F,G) Miss G Kelleway 4-11-7 —
4 F-UF WINDWARD ARIOM 103 (B,D,F,G,S) P Mitchell 10-11-7 A Lamach
5 4113 RANGITIKEI 26 (D,G) C Mann 5-11-2 J Railton
6 -F31 OUT ON A PROMISE 13 (D,F) N Walker 4-10-13 R Farrant
7 2-U0 JEMIMA PUDDLEDUCK 16 (D,G) A Streeter 5-10-6 T Eley
8 -210 SUPERMICK 26 (D,BF,G,S) W Muir 5-10-0 A Bates (5)
9 0PP2 SHIFTING MOON 22 (F) F Jordan 4-10-0 P Henley (3)
5-2 Yet Again, 7-2 Stash The Cash, Yubralee, 5-1 Rangitikei, 8-1 Out On A Promise, 10-1 Shifting Moon, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%; R Lee, 3 from 14, 21.4%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 10 winners from 23 rides, 43.5%.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER
12.10 Good Hand. 12.40 Tribune. 1.10 Brighter Shade. 1.40 Longcroft. 2.10 Twin States. 2.40 Weaver George. 3.10 Eurotwist.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

12.10 STANLEY RACING GOLDEN NUMBERS SERIES NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £1,953: 3m 3f 110yd (10 runners)
1 11 GOOD HAND 68F (F) S Kettlewell 10-11-12 G Lee (3)
2 0-22 BAHER 23F (BF) Mrs A Swinbank 7-10-12 J Supple
3 0051 BARNSTORMER 17 (B,F,G) E Elliott 10-10-12 G F Ryan (5)
4 5/P CHARLVIC 17 W Cunningham 6-10-12 L McGrath (7)
5 -340 CHILL FACTOR 26 Mrs M Reveley 6-10-12 G Cahill
6 3 ERNI 16 T Tate 4-10-12 R McCarthy (7)
7 2F2- KING FLY 236P Mrs Sarah Horner-Harker 6-10-12 M Foster
8 0/0- OLIVER'S MATE 356 P Dennis 6-10-12 N Smith
9 -400 POCAIRE GAOITHE 23 (V) W Storey 6-10-12 M Moloney
10 /00 WOODSTOCK LODGE 15 V Thompson 8-10-12 Mr M Thompson
5-2 Good Hand, 7-2 Erni, 6-1 Barnstormer, Baher, Chill Factor, 8-1 King Fly, 16-1 others.

12.40 UNION HALL-SIENNA STUD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,495: 2m 5f 110yd) (9)
1 3/ JOHNNY'S TURN 677P (G,S) J Norton 11-11-13 Mr N Kent
2 6-3F SUDDEN SPIN 8 (BF,G,S) J Norton 6-11-4 2nd pref
3 0/1 TRIBUNE 56 (CD,F,G) C Thornton 5-10-12 M Foster
4 0-01 TIRMIZI 8 (G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 5-10-11 (7ex) J Supple
5 1-30 BARTON HEIGHTS 10 (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-8 C McCormack (7)
6 /52 MANETTIA 18 (CD,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-7 G Cahill
7 -606 CUILLIN CAPER 8 T Watson 4-10-0 Miss R Clark (7)
8 2U-P WORLD WITHOUT END 16 (D,S) M Sowersby 7-10-0 M Moloney
9 0-00 SIG PATH 8 N Bycroft 7-10-0 O Pears
3-1 Manettia, 7-2 Tribune, 4-1 Sudden Spin, 9-2 Barton Heights, 6-1 Tirmizi, 7-1 Johnny's Turn, 14-1 Cuillin Caper, 20-1 others.

1.10 DURHAM INNS LTD MAIDEN CHASE (£3,309: 2m 5f) (13)
1 260F ARISTODEMUS 24 Mrs L Marshall 7-11-10 M Foster
2 16 BRIGHTER SHADE 45 (F) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-10 G Cahill
3 P004 CLONROCHE LUCKY 8 J Wade 6-11-10 K Jones
4 PP-U COOLRENY 10 V Thompson 7-11-10 Mr M Thompson
5 PP-0 DESPERATE DAYS 15 F Kirby 7-11-10 W Dwan
6 2 DRY HILL LAD 22 J Norton 5-11-10 W Fry
7 5F53 FAIR ALLY 7 M Sowersby 6-11-10 M Moloney
8 114- FERN LEADER 250P (G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-10 J Supple
9 /P/ MOST RICH 229P B Ellison 8-11-10 T Reed
10 00-5 NOOSA SOUND 15 L Lungo 6-11-10 2nd pref
11 U2FF ROYAL HAND 7 R Armson 6-11-10 Mr R Armson
12 SAFETY FACTOR J Howard Johnson 8-11-10 G F Ryan (5)
13 0-00 SELDOM BUT SEVERE 26 E Elliott 6-11-10 E Callaghan (3)
9-4 Brighter Shade, 4-1 Dry Hill Lad, 9-2 Safety Factor, 6-1 Fern Leader, 12-1 Most Rich, 16-1 Fair Ally, Royal Hand, 20-1 others.

1.40 STANLEY RACING GOLDEN NUMBERS NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £1,935: 3m 3f 110yd) (9)
1 31-0 DAISY DAYS 15 (G,S) J Howard Johnson 6-11-0 G Cahill
2 15 LONGCROFT 96F (BF,G) S Kettlewell 4-11-0 G Lee (3)
3 0-03 ADIB 15 (S) G Moore 6-10-12 S Haworth (7)
4 00-6 IRISH BUZZ 16 Mrs A Swinbank 4-10-12 Mr Chris Wilson
5 5/P LIAM'S LOSS 16 J Parkes 7-10-12 E Callaghan (3)
6 6-24 MOVIE MAN 43 J Turner 4-10-12 W Fry
7 P500 RUBER 15 (F,G,S) R Thomson 9-10-12 T Reed
8 P0 DEAR JEAN 29 (S) M Sowersby 6-10-7 Miss P Robson
9 0/ KNOCKREIGH CROSS 1058 B Rothwell 7-10-7 C McCormack (7)
5-2 Longcroft, 11-4 Daisy Days, 7-2 Adib, 9-2 Movie Man, 12-1 others.

2.10 NORTH YORKSHIRE BREWING COMPANY BORO BEST HANDICAP CHASE (£3,488: 3m 3f) (9)
1 -P65 SON OF IRIS 16 (C,BF,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-10 N Smith
2 -6FF MARCHWOOD 7 (G,S) N Chamberlain 9-11-10 T Reed
3 PP-U TWIN STATES 22 (CD,F,G,S) J Turner 7-11-10 W Fry
4 2-UU CHOISTY 16 Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-4 Mr Chris Wilson
5 13P4 JENDEE 6 (CD,F,G) B Ellison 8-11-0 G Cahill
6 1-P6 HURRICANE ANDREW 29 (F,G,S) J Moore 8-10-12 Mr N Wilson
7 6-36 KINGS SERMON 16 P Beaumont 7-10-4 E Callaghan (3)
8 5U41 DAWN LAD 16 (C,G) Mrs A Swinbank 7-10-3 J Supple
9 5-PP SNOOK POINT 6 (G) D Lamb 9-10-1 J Burke
3-1 Dawn Lad, 4-1 Kings Sermon, 5-1 Choisty, 6-1 Son Of Iris, Marchwood, Jendee, 10-1 others.

2.40 RENT ROLL CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£2,900: 2m 110yd) (6)
1 -241 WEAVER GEORGE 16 (CD,F,G) W Storey 8-12-0 M Moloney
2 -2413 FULL O'PRAISE 22 (CD,BF,F,G) P Calver 9-11-13 T Reed
3 5/2 COVER POINT 10 (F,G) J Fitzgerald 5-11-2 W Dwan
4 3U23 VAL DE RAMA 33 (C,F,G) Denys Smith 7-11-1 G Cahill
5 4P3- CHILL WIND 345 (F,G) N Bycroft 7-10-13 J Supple
6 0-50 SUPER SANDY 29 (D,S) F Watson 9-10-9 K Johnson
2-1 Weaver George, 5-2 Cover Point, 4-1 Full O'Praise, 9-2 Val De Rama, 10-1 Chill Wind, 16-1 Super Sandy.

3.10 HALLGARTH MANOR HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,268: 2m 1f) (10)
1 /06 DUAL IMAGE 10 (F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-12-0 W Dwan
2 P-53 EUROTWIST 26 (CD,G,S) S Kettlewell 7-11-12 G Lee (3)
3 1521 FEN TERRIER 7 (F,G,S) F Murtagh 4-11-10 (7ex) E Callaghan (3)
4 135- EUROLINK THE REBEL 213 (F) S Clark 4-11-8 Miss R Clark (7)
5 P-42 DUKE OF PERTH 8 (G) J Howard Johnson 5-10-12 G F Ryan (5)
6 10-4 GYMCRAK TIGER 49 (F,G) G Holmes 6-10-11 T Reed
7 05-P GALLARDINI 27 (D,G) B Rothwell 7-10-8 J Supple
8 1421 GLENVALLY 20 (G) B Murray 5-10-6 M Foster
9 2-33 HERE COMES HERBIE 6 W Storey 4-10-6 M Moloney
10 /0 MAPLE BAY 8 B Ellison 7-10-0 G Cahill
7-2 Fen Terrier, 9-2 Here Comes Herbie, 5-1 Eurotwist, Duke Of Perth, 7-1 Gymcrak Tiger, Glenvally, 8-1 Dual Image, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 70 winners from 239 runners, 29.3%; T Tate, 6 from 21, 28.6%; C Thornton, 6 from 23, 26.1%; J Fitzgerald, 13 from 51, 25.5%; P Beaumont, 17 from 86, 19.8%.

JOCKEYS: G Lee, 9 winners from 39 rides, 23.1%; J Supple, 12 from 73, 16.4%; N Smith, 13 from 93, 14.0%; T Reed, 12 from 92, 13.0%; B Grattan, 3 from 23, 13.0%; M Foster, 3 from 23, 13.0%.

WETHERBY

THUNDERER
12.45 Dana Point. 1.15 Golden Hello. 1.45 Circus Line. 2.15 The Grey Monk. 2.45 Cumbrian Challenge. 3.15 The Captain's Wish.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

12.45 CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,952: 2m) (7 runners)
1 15 ADVANCE EAST 12 (D,G) M Dods 4-11-4 A Dobbin
2 21 DANA POINT 24 (D,G) Mrs S Smith 4-11-4 R Guest
3 2535 SAMANID 5 (D,F) Miss L Siddall 4-11-4 P Carberry
4 4 BOLLIN FRANK 44 T Easterby 4-10-12 R Garritty
5 60 MENALDI 26 P Cheesbrough 6-10-12 N Leach
6 11- NORDIC PRINCE 400 (F,G) T Tate 5-10-12 J F Titley
7 13-5 SOUTHERN CROSS 23 (S) M W Easterby 4-10-12 R Johnson
7-4 Dana Point, 4-1 Advance East, 5-1 Bollin Frank, 6-1 Nordic Prince, 7-1 Samanid, 8-1 Southern Cross, 16-1 Menaldi.

1.15 BOROUGHBRIDGE NOVICES CHASE (£4,471: 2m) (5)
1 FU31 GOLDEN HELLO 12 (CD,F,G,S) T Easterby 5-11-12 A Dobbin
2 1-1 DARING PAST 15 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 6-11-9 R Garritty
3 65F6 ETHICAL NOTE 22 Mrs S Smith 5-11-4 Mr P Murray
4 D MISTER NOVA 1020 (G,S) M Camacho 7-11-4 R Guest
5 2-32 CHORUS LINE 55 (G) P Beaumont 7-10-13 2nd pref
11-10 Golden Hello, 11-8 Daring Past, 6-1 Mister Nova, 16-1 Ethical Note.

1.45 ST JOHN AMBULANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,215: 2m) (7)
1 2F5- DISCO DES MOTTES 282 (S) G Richards 5-12-0 P Carberry
2 020- NIJMEGEN 211F (CD,S) J J Fitzgerald 8-11-11 J F Titley
3 4F05 THORNTON GATE 12 (CD,BF,F,G,S) T Easterby 7-11-6 R Garritty
4 0-00 ELATION 5 (D,F,G) G Richards 4-11-0 A Dobbin
5 13- CELESTIAL CHOIR 47F (D,G) J Eyre 6-10-9 R Guest
6 -211 CIRCUS LINE 15 (D,G,S) M W Easterby 5-10-6 R Johnson
7 -442 RALITSA 22 (G) M Hammond 4-10-0 D Bentley
7-4 Circus Line, 5-1 Nijmegen, Celestial Choir, 6-1 Ralitsa, 8-1 Thornton Gate, Disco Des Mottes, 10-1 Elation.

2.15 ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (£16,938: 3m 1f) (6)
1 24-2 JODAMI 40 (F,G,S) P Beaumont 11-11-10 J F Titley
2 -443 SCOTTON BANKS 12 (C,D,BF,G,S) T Easterby 7-11-1 R Garritty
3 14-3 LO STREGONE 26 (C,D,F,G,S) T Tate 10-10-12 Mr S Swiers
4 1-12 THE GREY MONK 26 (D,BF,G,S) G Richards 8-10-8 A Dobbin
5 22-1 CALL IT A DAY 47 (F,G,S) D Nicholson 6-10-0 R Johnson
6 125- AVRO ANSON 257 (F,G) M Camacho 8-10-0 R Guest
7-4 The Grey Monk, 7-2 Call It A Day, 4-1 Jodami, 5-1 Lo Stregone, 8-1 Avro Anson, 10-1 Scotton Banks.

2.45 SUPERMASTER HANDICAP CHASE (£6,684: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)
1 -204 EASTHORPE 14 (F,G,S) Miss H Knight 8-11-10 J F Titley
2 U3/ GENERAL PERSHING 615 (CD,F,G,S) D Nicholson 10-11-7 R Johnson
3 6-11 EASBY JOKER 26 (CD,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 8-11-1 A Dobbin
4 5021 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 13 (CD,F,G,S) T Easterby 7-11-0 R Garritty
6-4 Easby Joker, 7-4 Cumbrian Challenge, 4-1 Easthorpe, 6-1 General Pershing.

3.15 BOXING DAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,007: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)
1 -422 THE CAPTAIN'S WISH 10 (G) D Nicholson 5-12-0 R Johnson
2 P02- TORCH VERT 47F N Walker 4-10-12 D Bentley
3 36-6 PILKINGTON 19 (G) J Howard Johnson 6-10-8 J F Titley
4 -444 SILLY MONEY 44 T Easterby 5-10-7 R Garritty
5 25-6 BEAU MATELOT 75 Miss M Milligan 4-10-5 M Newton
6 4-F3 DONT FORGET CURTIS 19 G Moore 4-10-4 N Hannity (7)
7 0514 LIFEBUOY 29 (D,BF,G) J Turner 5-10-3 A Dobbin
8 -066 REFLEX HAMMER 19 J Upson 5-10-0 R Guest
9 44SF HOTSPUR STREET 5 (B) M W Easterby 4-10-0 P Carberry
10 0-00 SIG PATH 8 N Bycroft 7-10-0 2nd pref
11 0-00 THE OTHER MAN 19 Miss L Siddall 6-10-0 O Pears
9-4 The Captain's Wish, 5-1 Reflex Hammer, 6-1 Torch Vert, 7-1 Dont Forget Curtis, 8-1 Pilkington, Silly Money, Hotspur Street, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 17 winners from 52 runners, 32.7%; G Richards, 27 from 113, 23.9%; T Easterby, 7 from 34, 20.6%; J Johnson, 14 from 78, 17.9%; J Fitzgerald, 15 from 99, 15.2%; P Beaumont, 6 from 48, 12.5%.

JOCKEYS: P Carberry, 5 winners from 18 rides, 27.8%; R Johnson, 5 from 20, 25.0%; R Guest, 12 from 69, 17.4%; A Dobbin, 15 from 96, 15.6%. Only qualifiers.

SPORTS BOOKS

Ripping yarns of Wigan's rise

RUGBY LEAGUE

SINCE completing his excellent book about Wigan's rise and plateau, two fundamentals have changed to make Paul Wilson blanch. Wigan are now Wigan Warriors and a startling new shirt has replaced the traditional hoops. In an apposite introduction, the author writes: "You can only go so far in chasing a new audience before you alienate your old one."

As worried as he is for rugby league in the shifting sands of the Super League era, Wilson's well-crafted insight into Wigan's 15-year odyssey is stirring, incisive and good-humoured. No punches are pulled, no stone unturned in the quest to explain how Wigan rose from the depths, conquered all-comers and came to dominate the sport.

The Best Years of Our Lives is a well-told tale of disaster and triumph, seething politics and rampant success on a scale unmatched in British team sport. The story is brought up to the present in a doleful last chapter when the winning stopped briefly for Wigan in 1996.

As a self-confessed Swinton fanatic, Simon Kelner can only bask in long-distant glories. In *To Jerusalem and Back*, Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League's chief executive, looms large — as, indeed, he does in Wilson's book. Betrayal of rugby league past is not the crime it might be if Super League gets it right, but Kelner, too, is gripped by fear and trembling in his occasionally sentimental but highly readable account of history.

Dave Hadfield is league's Ancient Mariner, a man for whom no match is too far, no place impenetrable, and one of the few people who genuinely enjoys visiting Papua New Guinea, possibly because it *is* the one country where league is unrivalled in popularity. *XIII Worlds* is the follow up to Hadfield's successful *XIII Winters* and again his edited collection of great rugby league's journeys of our time is witty and revealing.

A gap in the market is filled by *Super League '96*, a detailed breakdown of the first summer season and the ill-fated recent Great Britain tour by the publishers of the weekly *League Express* newspaper.

☐ *The Best Years of Our Lives*, by Paul Wilson (Mainstream Publishing, £15.99)
☐ *To Jerusalem and Back*, by Simon Kelner (MacMillan, £14.99)
☐ *XIII Worlds*, edited by Dave Hadfield (Mainstream Publishing, £14.99)
☐ *Super League '96*, by Graham Clay and Tim Butcher (League Publications, £12.99).

CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

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CHANGING TIMES

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER
12.30 Henrietta Howard. 1.00 Minster's Madam. 1.35 Out Ranking. 2.05 Diamond Fort. 2.35 Random Harvest. 3.05 Cast Of Thousands. 3.35 Brambles Way.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.30 Henrietta Howard.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

12.30 EBF TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) MARES ONLY NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £3,743: 2m 1f 110yd) (5 runners)
1 050- CALL ME BLACK 308 M Hammond 7-10-12 —
2 2-32 CHORUS LINE 55 (G) P Beaumont 7-10-12 B Grattan (7)
3 5-14 HENRIETTA HOWARD 21 (BF,F,G,S) Mrs D Haine 6-10-12 —
4 P04- OLD BETSY 236 Mrs S Smith 6-10-12 —
5 U3-P PRIMITIVE PENNY 30 (G) Mrs D Haine 5-10-12 —
4-6 Henrietta Howard, 4-1 Chorus Line, 5-1 Call Me Black, 8-1 Old Betsy, 25-1 Primitive Penny.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Mann, 4 winners from 9 runners, 44.4%; K Bailey, 12 from 46, 26.1%; Mrs M Reveley, 21 from 83, 25.3%; J Pearce, 4 from 16, 25.0%; M Pipe, 11 from 52, 21.2%; J Upson, 4 from 21, 19.0%; P Beaumont, 8 from 48, 16.7%; Miss A Embiricos, 3 from 18, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 20 winners from 111 rides, 18.0%; D Byrne, 9 from 61, 14.8%; A S Smith, 18 from 125, 14.4%; F Leahy, 6 from 43, 14.0%; J Ryan, 7 from 52, 13.5%; R Marley, 4 from 33, 12.1%; R Garritty, 11 from 94, 11.7%.

1.00 JACK AND GLADYS COOK GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY HURDLE (Selling handicap: £2,100: 2m 1f 110yd) (12)
1 41F3 MINSTER'S MADAM 17 (V,D,S) J Neville 5-12-0 J A McCarthy
2 14-P TREAD THE BOARDS 19 (BF) M Pipe 5-11-10 B Moore (7)
3 5244 SEA GOD 61 M Chapman 5-11-8 W Worthington
4 U00- DUGORT STRAND 306 O Brennan 5-11-2 M Brennan
5 1 TOULSTON LADY 13 (F) J Wharton 4-11-1 P Niven
6 03-2 WEATHER ALERT 20 (CD,G) K Morgan 5-11-0 A S Smith
7 -04P SHARMOOR 7 Miss L Siddall 4-10-13 F Leahy (3)
8 P0-P BRITANNIA MILLS 17 (D,F) M Chapman 5-10-11 Ross Berry (7)
9 6403 OAKBURY 13 Miss L Siddall 4-10-7 D Byrne
10 00-5 BOLD TOP 13 (V) B Rothwell 4-10-6 B Grattan (7)
11 0P6 DARING RYDE 20 J Smith 5-10-0 V Smith
12 0PP0 WOODLANDS ENERGY 6 P Pritchard 5-10-0 R Bellamy
4-1 Minster's Madam, 9-2 Sea God, 5-1 Tread The Boards, 11-2 Toulston Lady, 6-1 Weather Alert, 8-1 Dugort Strand, 10-1 Sharmoor, 12-1 others.

1.35 ROSELAND GROUP KILVINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,835: 2m 3f 110yd) (15 runners)
1 662/ JUNGLE KNIFE 1165F (S) K Morgan 10-12-0 J A McCarthy
2 2411 OUT RANKING 14 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 4-11-12 B Moore (7)
3 /0-5 GLANMERIN 16 (G,S) K Morgan 5-11-10 A S Smith
4 3-02 KIPPANOUR 13 (B,G) C Mann 4-11-6 J Magee (3)
5 3232 LORD MCMURROUGH 10 (D,S) J Neville 6-11-4 M Brennan
6 -112 ROSENCRANTZ 28 (BF,F) Miss V Williams 4-11-2 P Niven
7 3/06 DUAL IMAGE 10 (F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-11-0 2nd pref
8 440- CAN CAN CHARLIE 6F (C,F,G) J Pearce 6-10-13 V Smith
9 -442 RALITSA 22 (G) M Hammond 4-10-13 2nd pref
10 P5-P STAR OF DAVID 60 (CD,F,G) Miss A Embiricos 8-10-11 J Ryan
11 6-3F SUDDEN SPIN 8 (BF,G,S) J Norton 6-10-8 B Grattan (7)
12 U6-P MANOLETE 24 (G,S) Mrs M Jones 5-10-7 D Byrne
13 60P- MAJOR YAASI 625 (S) J Glover 6-10-1 R Marley
14 3-15 YOUNG RADICAL 58 (F) J Upson 4-10-0 D Morris
15 04-0 TRISTAN'S COMET 200 (C,G,S) J L Harris 9-10-0 2nd pref
2-1 Out Ranking, 7-2 Kippanour, 5-1 Rosencrantz, 8-1 Lord McMurrough, 10-1 Can Can Charlie, 12-1 Sudden Spin, Glanmerin, 14-1 Jungle Knife, Young Radical, Manolete, 16-1 others.

2.05 CLUGSTON GROUP LINCOLNSHIRE NATIONAL (Handicap chase: £10,699: 4m 1f) (13)
1 0-2P UBU VAL 19 (BF,F,G,S) W Bethell 10-11-7 A S Smith
2 F-51 SEVEN TOWERS 24 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4 P Niven
3 5-P4 URANUS COLLONGES 5 (G,S) J Fitzgerald 10-11-3 M Brennan
4 1FP- DON'T LIGHT UP 247 (V,G,S) Miss V Williams 10-11-2 D Byrne
5 1-18 ANDRE LAVAL 20 (G,S) K Bailey 7-11-0 J A McCarthy
6 -452 DIAMOND FORT 5 (CD,F,G,S) J McConnochie 11-10-10 D J Moffatt
7 -134 CHANGE THE REIGN 56 (C,F,G,S) Miss A Embiricos 9-10-8 J Ryan
8 54U5 PIMS GUNNER 7 (F,G,S) M Hammond 8-10-8 R Garritty
9 2U11 IVY HOUSE 20 (C,G,S) J J O'Neill 8-10-7 R McGrath (5)
10 1P22 CHURCH LAW 14 (G) Mrs L Taylor 9-10-6 D C O'Connor
11 P-13 WOODLANDS BOY 20 (F,S) R Curtis 8-10-3 F Leahy (3)
12 PP52 BANNTOWN BILL 8 (V,C,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-10-0 Guy Lewis (3)
13 6004 WOODLANDS GENHIRE 14 (B,F) P Pritchard 11-10-0 R Bellamy
3-1 Seven Towers, 7-2 Ivy House, 6-1 Ubu Val, 8-1 Church Law, 10-1 others.

2.35 BRUCE AND JOE CARR MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,016: 3m 1f) (17)
1 6-24 RANDOM HARVEST 34 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-10 P Niven
2 2-43 PEARL'S CHOICE 10 J McConochie 8-11-4 2nd pref
3 0-04 MAYBE O'GRADY 23 (G,S) W Cunningham 7-11-2 N Smith
4 66-1 MAJORITY MAJOR 23 (G,S) P Cheesbrough 7-11-1 A S Smith
5 3-10 BASSENHALLY 30 (G) Mrs P Sly 6-11-0 R Marley
6 -204 LOCH GARMAN HOTEL 15 P Dalton 7-10-12 R Bellamy
7 P-2F MAMICA 15 M Dods 6-10-11 —
8 6-36 KINGS SERMON 16 P Beaumont 7-10-9 2nd pref
9 3-F1 MISTER TRICK 16 (G) L Lungo 6-10-9 J A McCarthy
10 1-F4 MONKSAAN 24 (G) M Hammond 7-10-8 R Garritty
11 3FP ROYAL PARIS 16 Mrs S Smith 8-10-6 M Brennan
12 3P-4 RIVER RED 35 (F) K Frost 10-10-5 Guy Lewis (3)
13 2/4- I'M IN CLOVER 414 J Norton 7-10-3 Miss V Haigh
14 00-6 NOOSA SOUND 15 L Lungo 6-10-2 D Byrne
15 0-55 TARGET LINE 15 (S) Mrs S Smith 6-10-2 R Wilkinson (7)
16 /34- LORD VICK 394 (G) Miss A Embiricos 7-10-0 J Ryan
17 4623 RECORD LOWER 17 (F) M Chapman 6-10-0 W Worthington
7-2 Random Harvest, 9-2 Majority Major, 11-2 Mister Trick, 8-1 others.

3.05 SANDILANDS GOLFING HOLIDAYS MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,758: 2m 3f 110yd) (16)
1 P/ ACERBUS DULCIS 23F M Chapman 5-11-5 W Worthington
2 00-3 APRIL SEVENTH 37 J Neville 5-11-5 J Ryan
3 201- BURN OUT 246 (G) J Pearce 4-11-5 V Smith
4 32-0 CAST OF THOUSANDS 24 C Egerton 5-11-5 J A McCarthy
5 5-24 DENHAM HILL 24 C Mann 5-11-5 J Magee (3)
6 4 EARLY PEACE 61 M Dods 4-11-5 Guy Lewis (3)
7 FAYETTE COUNTY J J O'Neill 5-11-5 R McGrath (5)
8 -236 GOLF LAND 41 (BF) L Lungo 4-11-5 P Niven
9 052- INDICATOR 278 J Colas 4-11-5 D Byrne
10 00-4 JAYFCEE 19 M Bielby 4-11-5 R Bellamy
11 0/2 MALTA MAN 24 P Cheesbrough 6-11-5 A S Smith
12 31-0 NORTHERN STAR 19 (F) J Pickering 5-11-5 Miss J Wormall (7)
13 0 REACH THE CLOUDS 29 J Upson 4-11-5 D Morris
14 02/ SHAAGNI ANA 621 J Smyth-Osbourne 5-11-5 F Leahy (3)
15 02 SHARED RISK 49 J Norton 4-11-5 B Grattan (7)
16 -604 DARK PHOENIX 20 (G) O Brennan 6-11-0 M Brennan
9-2 Malta Man, 5-1 Burn Out, 6-1 Fayette County, Denham Hill, 8-1 Cast Of Thousands, April Seventh, 10-1 Shared Risk, Indicator, 12-1 others.

3.35 CHRISTMAS SPIRIT NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,940: 2m 1f 110yd) (14)
1 5/11 BRAMBLES WAY 23F (B,D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-6 P Niven
2 FIRST GOLD 23F J Wharton 7-11-3 V Smith
3 UNDAWATERSCUBADIVA 34F M Bielby 4-11-0 J A McCarthy
4 1421 GLENVALLY 20 (C,G) B Murray 5-10-12 2nd pref
5 4P64 ATH CHEANNAITHE 22 (D,F) J Neville 4-10-11 R Marley
6 00 MUDLARK 13 (BF) J Norton 4-10-11 D Byrne
7 0P35 PAST MASTER 8 S Gollings 6-10-11 J Magee (3)
8 SPANISH STRIPPER 38F M Chapman 5-10-11 W Worthington
9 0 TAJAR 15 M Dods 4-10-11 Guy Lewis (3)
10 -PRP WOODLANDS LAD TOO 6 P Pritchard 4-10-11 R Bellamy
11 40-5 GAME DRIVE 20 K Morgan 4-10-8 A S Smith
12 6-30 AUNTIE ALICE 19 J Fitzgerald 6-10-6 F Leahy (3)
13 GARLANDHAYES 205F Miss K George 4-10-3 —
14 00 SMALL FLAME 33 O Brennan 5-10-3 M Brennan
5-4 Brambles Way, 7-2 Ath Cheannaithe, 5-1 Game Drive, 8-1 Auntie Alice, 10-1 Past Master, 12-1 First Gold, 14-1 others.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: HOME ADVANTAGE GIVES GREEN BAY THE EDGE IN RACE FOR SUPER BOWL

Panthers quick to savour title success

By Oliver Holt

THE bosses in the National Football League (NFL) are used to having Christmas off, sitting by the fire, fattening themselves up ready for the business end of the play-offs in the new year. Things turned out differently on the last weekend of the regular season this time, though: the workers went home early and let their superiors do the spadework instead.

Carolina Panthers, in only their second season in the league, beat Pittsburgh Steelers in Charlotte to extend their record this year to a startling 12 wins and four losses. In the process, they clinched the National Football Conference (NFC) western division title that is usually the preserve of San Francisco 49ers.

This season, more than any other, the quest for the Super Bowl, which will be played in New Orleans at the end of January, is wide open. Denver Broncos, who played their final game against San Diego Chargers last night, boast the best record in the NFL, but there is no outstanding favourite. All the best teams seem alarmingly prone to bad days.

The 49ers, who have been disrupted by injuries to Steve Young, their quarterback, this season play their final game at home to Detroit Lions tonight, but they are already condemned to the unaccustomed indignity of playing in the first round, against Philadelphia Eagles, next Sunday.

The Panthers, who went through the season without losing a game at Ericsson Stadium, beat the Steelers 18-14, courtesy of three second-half field goals from John Kasay. They have a bye into the second round of the play-offs.

Of even more concern to the great and the good, however, was the fact that Green Bay Packers secured home-field advantage for as long as they remain in the play-offs with a crushing 38-10 win over Minnesota Vikings. When home field is Lambeau Field and the January temperatures are dipping deep into minus territory, that advantage is often insuperable.

Brett Favre, the Packers quarterback, threw three touchdown passes on Sunday, taking his total for the season to 39, the third highest in league history behind Dan Marino's mark of 48 for Miami Dolphins in 1984. "The road to the Super Bowl comes through Green Bay now," Reggie White, the Packers' fearsome defensive end, said after the game.

Green Bay, too, have a weekend off, but, for once, much to the delight of the majority of the American public, there is no such luxury for Dallas Cowboys. At the end of one of their most inconsistent seasons since the turn of the decade, they were trounced 37-10 by Washington Redskins in the last game to take place at RFK Stadium before the Redskins move to a new site.

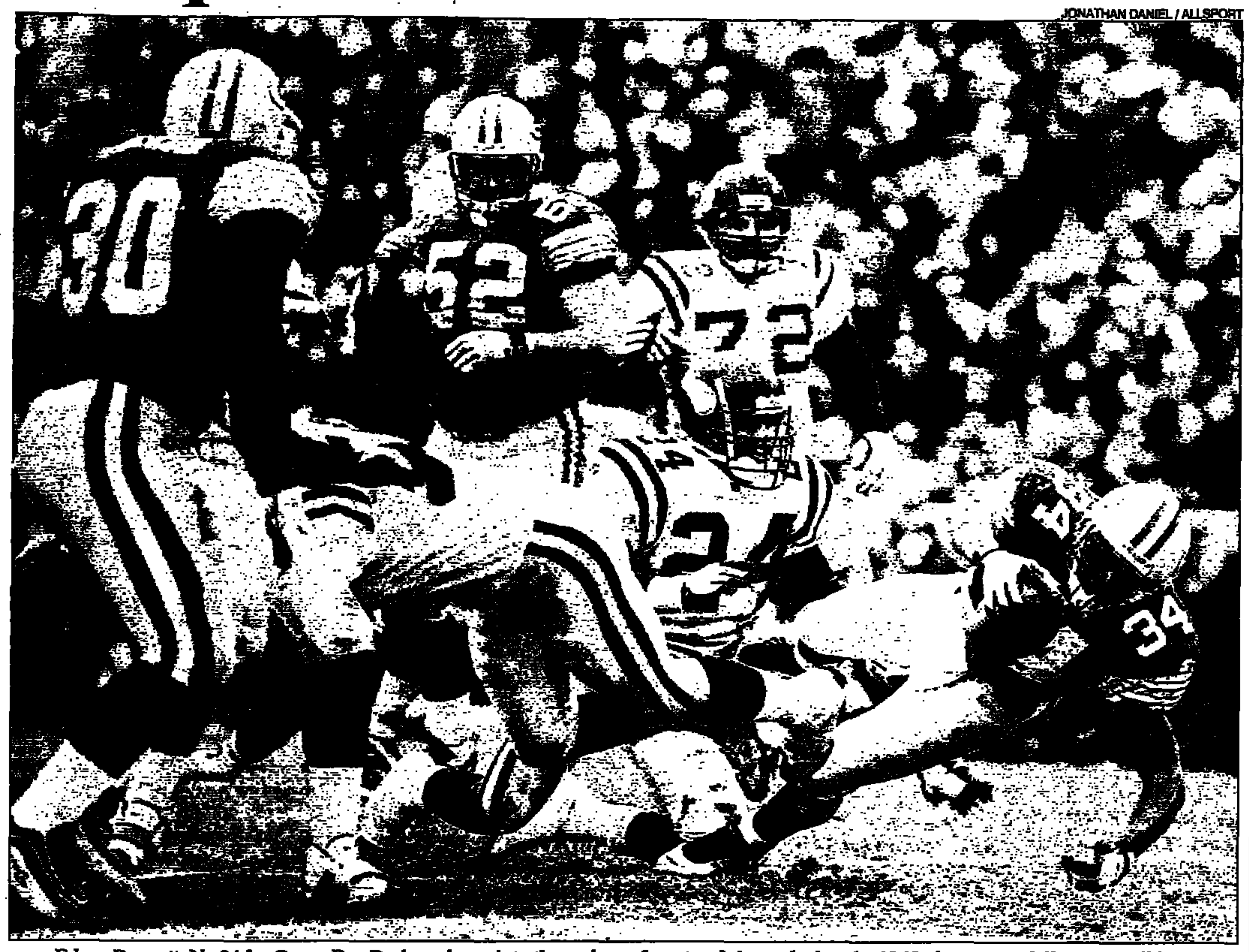
The Cowboys, who still managed to win the NFC eastern division title, rested Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith, their best players, but they have precious little momentum going into their game against the unpredictable Minnesota Vikings in Texas next Saturday. If they win there, they could face the Packers in the next round.

Buffalo Bills sneaked into the play-offs with a 20-9 win over Kansas City Chiefs, but they, too, will have to play next weekend, against Jacksonville Jaguars. The Steelers have an even tougher test in the shape of Indianapolis Colts and their doughty quarterback, Jim Harbaugh, "the Comeback Kid".

The end of the regular season brought its perennial spate of dismissals and resignations. Rich Brooks was dismissed by St Louis Rams after he finished with six wins and ten defeats, and a 3-13 record brought the dismissal of June Jones by Atlanta Falcons. In New York, both teams were in the mood to ring out the old and ring in the new. The Giants parted with George Reeves after missing the play-offs for the past three seasons, while the man with the worst record of all finally did the decent thing. Rich Kotite, the coach of the hapless Jets, bowed to the inevitable after his team lost another close game, 31-28 to the Dolphins.

In two seasons under his charge, the Jets have won only four of their 32 games and have finished with the worst record in the NFL in both years.

JONATHAN DANIEL / ALLSPORT



Edgar Bennett, No 34 for Green Bay Packers, leaps into the endzone for a touchdown during the 38-10 victory over Minnesota Vikings

Young: hit by injuries

NFL DETAILS

RESULTS: Baltimore 21 Houston 24; Buffalo 20 Kansas City 9; Carolina 18 Pittsburgh 14; Cincinnati 31 Indianapolis 24; Green Bay 38 Minnesota 10; Jacksonville 19 Atlanta 17; New York Jets 28 Miami 31; Philadelphia 29 Arizona 19; Tampa Bay 34 Chicago 19; Oakland 21 Seattle 28; Washington 37 Dallas 10; San Diego 16 Denver 10.

American Conference

Eastern division	W	L	F	A
† New England	11	5	418	313
* Buffalo	10	6	319	266
Indianapolis	9	7	317	334
Miami	8	8	339	325
NY Jets	1	15	279	454
Central division				
† Pittsburgh	10	6	344	257
* Jacksonville	9	7	325	335
Cincinnati	8	8	372	369
Houston	8	8	345	319
Baltimore	4	12	371	441
Western division				
§ Denver	13	3	391	275
Kansas City	9	7	297	300
San Diego	8	8	310	376
Oakland	7	9	340	293
Seattle	7	9	317	376

National Conference

Eastern division	W	L	T	F	A
† Dallas	10	6		286	250
* Philadelphia	10	6		363	341
Washington	9	7		364	312
Arizona	7	9		300	397
NY Giants	6	10		242	297
Central division					
§ Green Bay	13	3		456	210
* Minnesota	9	7		298	315
Chicago	7	9		283	305
Tampa Bay	6	10		221	293
Detroit	5	10		288	344
Western division					
† Carolina	12	4	0	367	218
* San Francisco	11	4	0	374	243
St Louis	6	10	0	303	409
Atlanta	3	13	0	309	461
New Orleans	3	13	0	229	339

* Play-off place

† Divisional title

§ Conference title

(Not including last night's match: San Francisco v Detroit)

SWIMMING

Snelling quick to spot short cut to success

By Craig Lord

DERYK SNELLING, Great Britain's new performance director, has made his mark by extending the selection period for the world short-course championships, to be held in Gothenburg in April, and giving higher priority to racing in 25-metre pools.

The British short-course championships ended in Sheffield on Sunday with 23 swimmers having qualified for Sweden, much to Snelling's delight. About half made the grade on individual performances — the standard was the time of the seventh-placed swimmer at the world championships last year — and the rest in the relays.

By extending the qualification period beyond the British championships to the World Cup series over the next two months, Snelling hopes to lead the largest British team at a leading short-course international event.

The move is designed to raise Britain's short-course standing, given that short-course swimming has become a feature of the international competition calendar.

While the best hopes of success in Gothenburg inevitably rest on established names, such as the Olympic medal-winners Paul Palmer, Graeme Smith, Mark Foster — who has set seven world short-course records — and James Hickman, the four days of racing at Sheffield last week gave rise to some new prospects.

Most notable was Margaretha Pedder, 16, who is coached by Chris Nesbitt at Portsmouth Northsea. Pedder recorded 2min 12.08sec for the 200 metres butterfly to secure her first national senior selection.

Her time was only 0.26sec shy of the British record, held by Samantha Purvis since 1990, and marked a 4.5sec improvement in the year. That equates to a leap from 61st place in the world rankings to seventh in eight months. Had Pedder competed at the European short-course championships in Germany two weeks ago, she would have finished fourth with her Sheffield time.

Snelling said that Britain "could not afford to miss the boat" where short-course racing was concerned and could use the winter season as a powerful vehicle for improving its world standing in long-course swimming. "I'm delighted to see so many new names coming through," he said. "Britain has always had great potential, great juniors. We now have to make sure they make great seniors."

Part of Snelling's grand design unfolds in January, with one senior group heading to Peking and Hong Kong for the first two rounds of the World Cup — an event for which prize-money totals $170,000 (about £120,000), with category winners receiving a guaranteed $7,500 — while other groups will head to the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, and to Florida, for three weeks of intensive training.

Foster: seven world short-course records

GREAT BRITAIN (qualifiers for Gothenburg): Men: A Clayton (City of Leeds), M Foster (City of Lincoln), S Handley (City of Bristol), M Harris (Tower Hamlets), J Hickman (Stockport Metro), R Maden (Rochdale Aquabears), G Meadows (City of Leeds), P Palmer (City of Lincoln), A Ruckwood (City of Birmingham), J Salter (Warrender), G Smith (Stockport Metro), M Stevens (Satellite, Macclesfield), M Watkins (Torfaen), I Wilson (City of Leeds). Women: J Belton (City of Bradford), J Deakins (City of Coventry), K Hawcroft (Manchester United Salford), C Huddart (City of Leeds), J King (Borough of Waltham Forest), S Massey (City of Bradford), M Pedder (Portsmouth Northsea), K Pickering (Ipswich), S Rolph (City of Newcastle)

□ The Australian quartet of Adrian Radley, Ryan Mitchell, Geoff Huegill and Michael Klim set a world short-course record of 3min 30.91sec for the 4 x 100 metres medley relay at the national championships in Sydney. The previous record, 3min 32.57sec, was set by a United States team in 1993.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

The correct play on the hand today involved counting tricks and then taking an elementary precaution.

Dealer North **Love all** **Rubber bridge**

West	North	East	South
♠ 7	♠ A Q J	♠ 5 3 2	♠ K 10 9 8 6 4
♥ K 2	♥ 5 4	♥ J 10 9 8 6	♥ A Q 7 3
♦ Q J 10 9	♦ A K 7 6 3 2	♦ 8 4	♦ 5
♣ Q 9 8 7 5 3	♣ 4 2	♣ A J 10	♣ K 6

Contract: Six Spades by South — Lead: Queen of diamonds

I was not given the bidding sequence: Six Spades looks a sound contract. How should declarer play on a diamond lead?

It is a matter of counting tricks. If the diamonds break three-three, declarer will be able to make six tricks in spades, three top tricks in the red suits and the fourth, fifth and sixth diamond, after he has established them by ruffing. However, if the diamonds are 4-2, declarer will also need a trick from hearts or clubs.

So, the correct sequence of play is to win the first diamond and cash a second high diamond, discarding a heart. Ruff a third one high. When the diamonds turn out to be 4-2, cross to dummy in trumps to ruff a fourth round of diamonds and so set up the suit. Then cash the ace of hearts in case the king falls singleton, draw trumps ending in dummy, cash the two long diamonds — throwing the two remaining heart losers — and finally lead up to the king of clubs.

A good player got this wrong at the table. At trick two, he ruffed a low diamond. The problem with this was that he did not know whether the diamonds were 4-2 or 3-3. He crossed back to dummy with a trump and belatedly tried to cash a high diamond. When East ruffed, suddenly declarer was a trick short.

I hope that you see the importance of taking the second high diamond early. That way, you can tell whether you need to ruff one or two diamonds to establish the suit. As the cards lie, after his initial mistake, declarer could still have succeeded by taking a second low diamond ruff; but that could fail if diamonds were 3-3 with the ace of clubs wrong.

□ Robert Sheehan writes Monday to Friday in Sport and in Weekend on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

British prodigy

Luke McShane, 12, from London, has become the youngest British player to score an international master result. He did so by tying for second place with Andrew Kinsman behind Mark Ferguson in the first Caledonian Masters in Edinburgh. Kinsman thus notched up his third master result, in the process gaining the full title, but McShane will have to repeat this performance on two further occasions before being confirmed as an international master.

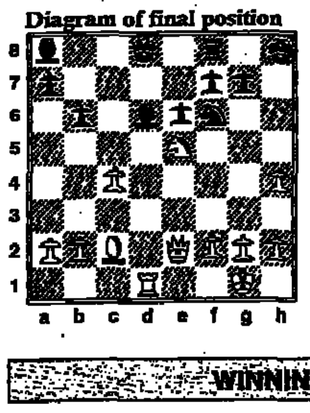
McShane's promise has been evident since he won the world under-10 championship and he has come close on many previous occasions to securing his first international master norm.

White: Luke McShane
Black: John Richardson
Edinburgh, December 1996

Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	Nc3	dxe4
4	Nxe4	Nd7
5	Nf3	Ngf6
6	Bd3	Nxe4
7	Bxe4	e6
8	Bf4	Nf6
9	Bd3	b6
10	0-0	Bb7
11	Qe2	Bd6
12	Ne5	0-0
13	Bg3	c5
14	dxc5	Bxc5
15	Rfd1	Qe7
16	Bh4	Kh8
17	Bxh7	Rad8
18	Rxd8	Qxd8
19	Rd1	Bd5
20	Bd3	Bd6
21	c4	Be8
22	Bc2	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Top ratings

Fide, the world chess federation, has issued its top ranking list for 1997. The players from Las Palmas remain in the first six places, while Nigel Short is in the top ten. Leading ratings are: Garry Kasparov (Russia) 2,795, Viswanathan Anand (India) 2,765, Anatoly Karpov (Russia) 2,760, Vladimir Kramnik (Russia) 2,740, Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine) 2,740, Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria) 2,725, Gata Kamsky (USA) 2,720, Boris Gelfand (Belarus) 2,700, Alexei Shirov (Spain) 2,690, Nigel Short (England) 2,690.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276) at £6.99 plus postage and packing.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CALTROP
a. A spell
b. Too much heat
c. A hoof trap

CROCKET
a. An invalid
b. A horn bud
c. To grumble

CARCOON
a. A clerk
b. Pale brown
c. To clean a ship

COPIA
a. A Roman goblet
b. Verbosity
c. The second vertebra

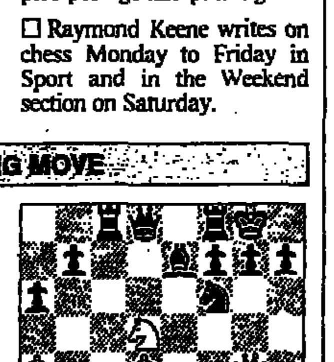
Answers on page 36

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. From the game Lautier — Piket, Monaco, 1996. Their recent match in Monaco ended in stalemate with eight draws and no wins. It would have been different if Lautier had exploited his chance. What should he have played instead of 1. Nxf6+?

Solution on page 36



TENNIS: FORMER DAVIS CUP PLAYERS GET GREATER SAY IN FUTURE POLICY

Lewis and Feaver agree to take on new roles

RICHARD LEWIS, the director for national training and coaching at the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), and John Feaver, the director of events and tournaments, will be given added responsibility from next month (a Correspondent writes).

Lewis is to become the director of the international and professional tennis division. The change means that he will not only maintain his present duties but will also be responsible for the overall policy and strategy of the professional game and the preparation and coordination of budgets and reports.

Feaver, who has been mainly concerned with the biggest tournaments in Great Britain, will be responsible for all the domestic events.

Lewis and Feaver are former Great Britain Davis Cup players and Lewis said: "The LTA already spends £7 million a year on training, coaching and tournaments, of which £3 million alone is spent on tournaments each year.

"One of my new tasks will be to advise on how much we should spend on tournaments and what to put on and where. I'm looking forward to my new role."

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Charities Aid Foundation Balanced Growth Fund. Scheme for the amendment of previous Scheme.
Reference: AS-803287/24041-L(Lds).
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Charities Aid Foundation, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME 19 4TA or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting the reference above.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Charities Aid Foundation Income Fund. Scheme for the amendment of previous Scheme.
Reference: AS-803288/48376-L(Lds).
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Charities Aid Foundation, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME 19 4TA or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting the reference above.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Society of the Sisters of Bethany (224582)
Scheme to vary Trust Deed
Reference: RH/1178I/CD(T)
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at PORTRAIT SOLICITORS 1 CHANCERY LANE LONDON WC2A 1LF or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the reference above.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF TRUCK FUNDING TRUSTEE LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
On 5 December 1996 the company was placed in creditors' voluntary liquidation. Alan John Barrett and Michael David Gercke of Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL have been appointed liquidators. Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing, of their claims against the company to the liquidators at the above address.
Claims need not be in any particular form, but creditors wishing to claim VAT bad debt relief are requested to complete the form issued by the liquidators. The liquidators reserve their right to require a creditor to support his or her claim by affidavit.
Yours faithfully
AJ Barrett
Joint Liquidator
18 December 1996

COMPANY NUMBER: 1679664
COAST SECURITIES LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On 15 December 1996 the above named company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders. The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 30 January 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 19 December 1996
AV Lomas
Liquidator

DSC ESTATES LIMITED
Registered Number: 1020563. Nature of Business: Real Estate. Trade Classification: 35. Date of appointment of Administrative Receivers: 18th December 1996. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receivers: National Westminster Bank Plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: J J Schapira ACA and K D Goodman FCA, (Office Holder Nos: 5784 and 2407) of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London, W2 6LF

TILLINGHAST, NELSON & WARREN LTD
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 01105409
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: On 17 December 1996 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Martin Fishman of 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT, was appointed Liquidator by the Members.
The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to Martin Fishman PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT by 27 February 1997.
The Liquidator also gives notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A(6) that on 27 March 1997 he intends to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 27 February 1997 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.
The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full.
Dated 20th December 1996
M. FISHMAN Liquidator

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
FLOYD CONSTRUCTION (BRENT) LIMITED
FLOYD CONSTRUCTION (BASILDON) LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Companies will be held at Woodford Moat House, 30 Oak Hill Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 9NY on 6th January 1997 at 10:30 & 11:30am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(A) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Jamie Taylor of Messrs. Taylor Gotham & Fry, The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above companies and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the companies affairs as they may reasonably require.
Resolutions to be taken at the aforementioned meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated. The meeting may also receive information about or be called upon to approve the costs of preparing the Statement of Affairs and convening the meeting.
Dated the 29th November 1996
A.W. Floyd
Director

In the Matter Of V.L.M. Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 28th January 1997, to send their full christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debt or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Jamie Taylor of Messrs. Taylor Gotham & Fry, The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 17th December 1996
Jamie Taylor - Liquidator

FILERING LIMITED
Registered Number: 2297791. Nature of Business: Real Estate. Trade Classification: 35. Date of appointment of Administrative Receivers: 18th December 1996. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receivers: National Westminster Bank Plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: J J Schapira ACA and K D Goodman FCA, (Office Holder Nos: 5784 and 2407) of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London, W2 6LF

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
- and -
BESSEMER TRANSPORT LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 16th January 1997 at THE OLD BAKERY, LOWER GOWER ROAD, ROYSTON, HERTS. at 3.00 for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA, of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2) (a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require. DATED this 12 day of December 1996. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD M. WOLTON DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF SOLE LIQUIDATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM
INNOVATIVE COMMUNICATIONS EUROPE LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
Principal Trading Address: Formerly, Suite 5, 1 Leicester Place, London WC2
Company Number 2359979
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 6 December 1996 James Robert Drummond Smith was appointed liquidator of the above named company (creditors' voluntary winding up).
Creditors of the company who have not already done so should submit their claims in writing to the liquidator at the following address under reference: NXM/PXB/LDB
Deloitte & Touche
PO Box 810
Hill House
1 Little New Street
London EC4A 3TR

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
OR
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF TRUCKFIN LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
On 5 December 1996 the company was placed in creditors' voluntary liquidation. Alan John Barrett and Michael David Gercke of Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL have been appointed liquidators. Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing, of their claims against the company to the liquidators at the above address.
Claims need not be in any particular form, but creditors wishing to claim VAT bad debt relief are requested to complete the form issued by the liquidators. The liquidators reserve their right to require a creditor to support his or her claim by affidavit.
Yours faithfully
AJ Barrett
Joint Liquidator
18 December 1996

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Certificate of appointment of liquidator by meeting
V.L.M. LIMITED
This is to certify that at the meetings of the members and creditors of the above named company held on 2nd December 1996 at 130 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1, JAMIE TAYLOR of Messrs. Taylor, Gotham & Fry, The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend on Sea, Essex, having provided a written statement that he is qualified to act as an insolvency practitioner in relation to the above-named company under the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and that he consents so to act, was appointed liquidator of the company.
Dated 2nd December 1996
JOHN G. BEARD
Chairman

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Aspinall Dr John Bernard late of 8 Ashley Court, Rush Burn Woodburn Green High Wycombe Buckinghamshire died on 31st May 1996. Particulars to Messrs Hempsons, 33 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8NH before 18th February 1997.

John Goodbody tests your knowledge in the Quiz of the Sporting Year

The Mongolian circus is in town . . . but which footballers are flying high?

JANUARY

1. Which former England cricketer was the guest of honour at a lunch given by the United Cricket Board of South Africa during the fifth Test at Newlands, Cape Town?
2. A cricketer from which country had electrodes attached to his elbow to transmit three-dimensional pictures, to decide "once and for all" whether he threw the ball?
3. Who won the France v England match in the five nations' championship in Paris?
4. Which foreign footballer arrived in England to sign for Newcastle United but had to return to Italy because his work permit had not been finalised?
5. Who won the men's singles title at the Australian Open tennis championships?
6. The son of a famous television commentator announced that he was giving up his job to try to represent Britain at the Olympics (he succeeded) Who was his father?

A: Mike Tyson batters Frank Bruno into submission in March. In which round?

FEBRUARY

7. Which swimmer claimed that his positive test for marijuana was the result of passive smoking?
8. In which sport did Jackie MacGillivary, a self-confessed enthusiastic amateur, compete against international stars?
9. In which sport did *High Fibre* and *Greasy Spoon* participate?
10. Which British racecourse was the first to have a mechanical horse to enable jockeys to warm up?
11. Which British athlete, running the last leg of a relay, was admonished for waving the baton at spectators and then allowing an opponent almost to catch up before accelerating again?
12. Which two former Watford football players did Graham Taylor ask to run the team on his return as general manager at Vicarage Road?
13. Who outraged Spaniards by comparing Sierra Nevada to Morocco, but still won two titles there during the Alpine world skiing championships?

MARCH

14. Of which rugby player was it said: "He is a person who, in my eyes, has set an example, and people have followed him because of the high standards he has set."?
15. There were only 28 runners declared for the Grand National. This was the smallest number since which year: a, 1964; b, 1970; c, 1979?
16. Which West Indies cricketer announced his retirement after their World Cup defeat against Kenya?
17. In which athletics event did Kate Staples, Zodiac in *Gladiators*, set a British indoor record?
18. Which Scottish rugby union player was knocked out by a punch in the Calcutta Cup match?
19. Which two foreign footballers were granted new work permits after the Government changed its regulations?
20. Which country knocked England out of the cricket World Cup?
21. Who won the Coca-Cola Cup final at Wembley?

APRIL

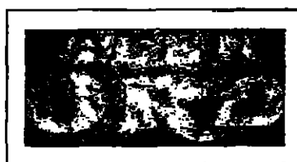
22. In the past 20 years, only one surname has appeared three times in *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year. Which?
23. Which American football player, a member of the Chicago Bears Super Bowl-winning team of 1986, joined the London Monarchs?
24. How many strokes was Greg Norman ahead of Nick Faldo before the last round of the Masters?
25. Who was said by a Football Association official to look like a "tube of Refreshers" because of the colours of the new England kit?
26. Who won the men's race in the London Marathon for the third successive year?
27. Who took six for 21, including four wickets in four balls, in his first appearance in the Benson and Hedges Cup?
28. Which snooker player, who reached the semi-final of the world championship, was fined £20,000 for assaulting an official?

MAY

29. Who said: "It will not help to have one manager on the training field and another watching from the touchline. The players would not know where to look."?
30. Who pushed over the referee at the end of the Pilkington Cup final at Twickenham?
31. Which runner, returning to competitive track athletics after 20 months, had to take Vicks VapoRub and Paracetamol to help to cure a cold?
32. Who said: "You could have knocked me over with a feather when the chairman called me in and told me that I had been sacked."?
33. In the cross-code matches between Bath and Wigan, which club scored more points at their own code?
34. Which American basketball player retired again, 4½ years after first saying that he was quitting?
35. Who avoided being given out leg-before on 15 occasions by throwing his bat towards silly point while padding away the ball?

JUNE

36. Which unseeded Slovakian tennis player knocked Monica Seles out of the women's singles at Wimbledon?
37. Who was the first female jockey to ride in the Derby?
38. Who scored England's first goal in the European football championship finals?
39. Who gave up her quest, in mid-Atlantic, to be the first woman to sail non-stop single-handed around the world?



***THE TIMES* presents the traditional festive challenge — the Quiz of the Sporting Year. Test your knowledge on the milestones and misfortunes that made 1996 such a year to remember, and you may be the winner of six bottles of Glen Ord 12-year-old single malt whisky. The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn — or, if necessary, the entrant with the most correct answers — will receive the award-winning whisky, produced at Muir of Ord, a village on the Black Isle.**

The six runners-up will receive *Visions of Tennis*, a celebration of the work of the Allsport photographic agency, the official agency of the Lawn Tennis Association. It includes the players, venues and personalities from around the world. *Visions of Tennis* is published by Quiller Press at £16.95.

Prize for the runners-up

B: Oliver Bierhoff wins Euro 96 for Germany. What was unique about his goal in the final?

40. When Paul Gascoigne scored his goal against Scotland in the European championship, over which Scotland defender did he lob the ball?
41. David Seaman saved a penalty from which Spanish player to give England an unassailable 4-2 lead in the penalty shoot-out in the quarter-final of the European championship?
42. How many successful kicks did England and Germany convert before Gareth Southgate's miss in the penalty shoot-out in the European championship semi-final?

JULY

43. Who won the Open golf championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes and what was his winning margin?
44. Which club had an application for National Lottery money turned down partly because it refused to admit women as members?
45. Who partnered Jonathan Stark in the mixed doubles championship at Wimbledon but lost in the quarter-finals?
46. Which cricketer admitted that he bowled "absolute rubbish" as he took the first hat-trick of his career in the NatWest Trophy?
47. Which cyclist accurately forecast in the Tour de France: "Unless I get sick or injured in a crash, I will win."?
48. How many Olympic swimming gold medals did Michelle Smith win?
49. Who injured her left ankle badly, but still completed a vault to help the United States to the Olympic women's gymnastics team gold medals and become a national sporting heroine?

AUGUST

50. Which overseas footballer scored a hat-trick for his new club on his debut in the FA Carling Premiership?
51. Which British Olympic hockey player said after her penalty was saved in the bronze-medal game: "I watched Gareth Southgate in Euro 96 and now I know exactly what he must have gone through"?
52. What colour shoes did Michael Johnson wear while completing his 200 metres-400 metres double at the Olympics?
53. Which Briton came fourth in an Olympic swimming event, was moved up to third place when the Russian bronze medal-winner was disqualified after a positive drugs test, but finally lost the medal when the Russian successfully appealed against his disqualification?
54. Who said: "I had my 20 minutes in goal just like everyone else, but I said to someone that I'd played in goal for Newcastle when I was on trial, and I've never heard the last of it"?
55. Who broke the world 4,000 metres pursuit record at the world cycling championships in Manchester?

SEPTEMBER

56. Against which country did England play, and win, their first match under the managership of Glenn Hoddle — a qualifying game for the 1998 World Cup — and what was the score?
57. Which non-league football club, whose player-manager has been sent off 21 times in his 22-year career, signed a five-figure sponsorship deal as part of a £3 million promotional campaign for a soft drinks company?
58. Which county won the AXA Equity and Law Sunday League, their first cricket honour for 14 years, and which county won the Britannic Assurance championship?
59. Which jockey received a four-day ban for using his whip with "unreasonable force and frequency" after riding Shantou to victory in the St Leger?
60. How many winners did jockey Frankie Dettori ride at Ascot in a performance unique on the British Turf?
61. In which country was the opening game of the qualifying competition for the 1999 rugby union World Cup played?

OCTOBER

62. A 12-year-old schoolboy became the hero of the New York Yankees baseball team when his intervention from the stand prevented a fly ball from being caught. Which team was on the receiving end of his action?
63. Who finished second to Damon Hill in the Japanese Grand Prix, the final race of the Formula One world championship?
64. To which town did Yorkshire County Cricket Club plan to move its headquarters from Headingley, Leeds?
65. Which country turned up two hours late for the scheduled kick-off against Scotland in a World Cup qualifying game after a dispute about the quality of the stadium floodlights?
66. Which country did the golfers of the United States defeat in the final of the Dunhill Cup at St Andrews, and who won the World Match Play title for the third successive year?
67. Which French-trained horse won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp?
68. Which Nationwide League third division football club had a training session with acrobats at a touring Mongolian circus?

NOVEMBER

69. Which country beat Wales 7-1 in a World Cup qualifying game, the principality's heaviest football defeat for 66 years, and where was the match played?
70. Which jockey, on November 21, completed the quickest century of winners in a National Hunt racing season?
71. A professional footballer with which club was found to have been positive for cocaine, cannabis and Ecstasy in the same urine sample?
72. Who said about his return to competitive sport: "I'm coming back with more vigour than four years ago"?
73. David Campese and Jonathan Davies were the same age when they opposed each other in the Wales versus Australia rugby international? How old were they?

C: Andre Agassi bows out of Wimbledon in June. Beaten by which tennis player?

74. Which Sheffield Wednesday player was banned from football worldwide while Fifa, the world governing body, investigated a claim that he had agreed to join two clubs at the same time?

DECEMBER

75. What seasonal item was Ed Giddins employed to sell during his 19-month ban from cricket for cocaine use?
76. Which former Wimbledon singles champion did Tim Henman beat after receiving a late call-up to compete in the Compaq Grand Slam Cup in Munich?
77. As Manchester United beat Rapid Vienna 2-0 to qualify from the European Cup Champions' League, who scored their opening goal?
78. About which sport was a film, *Space Jam*, made, in which aliens come to earth to steal the powers of the leading players?
79. Who replaced the injured Phil de Glanville as captain of the England rugby union team against Argentina?
80. The son of which famous English sportsman decided he would concentrate on professional rugby union rather than county cricket?

1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 ..... 10 ..... 11 ..... 12 ..... 13 ..... 14 ..... 15 ..... 16 ..... 17 ..... 18 ..... 19 ..... 20 ..... 21 ..... 22 ..... 23 ..... 24 ..... 25 ..... 26 ..... 27 .....

HOW TO ENTER THE QUIZ OF THE SPORTING YEAR

FILL IN your answers on the entry form and send it, with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to: **Quiz of the Sporting Year, Sports Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN** to arrive by Friday January 10, 1997. The prize will go to the sender of the first all-correct entry – or, if necessary, the entrant with the most correct answers – drawn from those received by the closing date. The Sports Editor's decision is final and correspondence will not be entered into. The winners and solutions will be published on Tuesday, January 14, 1997. The competition is not open to employees of News International, their relatives or agents.

28 ..... 29 ..... 30 ..... 31 ..... 32 ..... 33 ..... 34 ..... 35 ..... 36 ..... 37 ..... 38 ..... 39 ..... 40 ..... 41 ..... 42 .....

43 ..... 44 ..... 45 ..... 46 ..... 47 ..... 48 ..... 49 ..... 50 ..... 51 ..... 52 ..... 53 ..... 54 ..... 55 ..... 56 ..... 57 .....

58 ..... 59 ..... 60 ..... 61 ..... 62 ..... 63 ..... 64 ..... 65 ..... 66 ..... 67 ..... 68 ..... 69 ..... 70 ..... 71 ..... 72 ..... 73 ..... 74 ..... 75 ..... 76 ..... 77 ..... 78 ..... 79 ..... 80 .....

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NAME .....

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..... POST CODE .....

DAYTIME TELEPHONE No. .....

CRICKET: HUSSAIN, KNIGHT AND CRAWLEY CONFIRM QUALITY WITH DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCES IN FIRST TEST

England draw comfort from heroic failure

Hussain: responsible

FROM SIMON WILDE IN HARARE

IT HAS come to something when English cricket finds cause for optimism from a drawn match with the newest and weakest Test nation, but, such were the circumstances of the inaugural Test match between England and Zimbabwe that finished in such pulsating fashion on Sunday afternoon, that is precisely what has happened.

While the England party spent yesterday at Victoria Falls, viewing what the local tribes originally called *Mosi oa Tunya*, or "the smoke that thunders", they could have reflected that they had shown the sceptics that those wearing the three lions of England are sometimes capable of a roar in the national cause.

Nasser Hussain, John Crawley and Nick Knight all played about as well as they have played for England in their short careers. Hussain's patient century turned the match around, Crawley's equally well-constructed effort ensured a small but vital first-innings lead and Knight, by batting from first ball to last of England's chaotic second-innings run-chase and so nearly scoring the 13 runs that were required from the final over, confirmed that he has the temperament for the big occasion.

No less important, Tufnell and Croft, in their first Test together, suggested that they are capable of forging a successful spin alliance, despite being hindered by some unfortunate umpiring decisions.

They may, indeed, have been playing only Zimbabwe, but, by falling one run short of meeting a target of 205 in 37 overs, England came within a whisker of accomplishing something of which any Test side in the world would be proud.

Few sides score — or are asked to score — at 5½ runs an over in a Test innings, as England did. The tempo of the five-day game militates against such a rate and, on the rare occasions that sides have attempted to meet such a requirement, they have almost all failed. The last comparable instance involving England was against Pakistan at Edgbaston nine years ago, when they required 124 from 18 overs, but fell 15 runs short and came within three wickets of losing the match.

Surprisingly, the last Test side to score at such high speed in the fourth innings of a match was England again, against South Africa at the Oval in 1994, when Gooch, Atherton, Hick and Thorpe carried them to a target of 204 in just 35.3 overs, or 5.7 runs per over, although they were not then batting against the clock.

That victory raised hopes that Australia might be made to fight for the Ashes, hopes that quickly proved forlorn. David Lloyd, the England coach, spoke yesterday of his team's encouraging progress, but was not so rash as to make predictions.

The greatest talking point about the play on Sunday remained the issue of "wide balls", as bowled by Zimbabwe and interpreted as legitimate by umpires Robinson and Dunne. Because tight run-chases are so rare in Tests, the laws as applied to this form of the game have fallen out of step with the limited-overs game, but that is no excuse, as Heath Streak, Zimbabwe's leading bowler, tacitly admitted.

"I was very lucky to get away with that fourth ball in the last over," he said. "It was pretty wide, but I knew by then that the umpires were prepared to give us some latitude. They were pretty lenient about what we were doing. I do not like bowling that way, but it wasn't the first time it has been done by us or other Test teams when they are in a tight corner."

From such remarks, it is fairly clear that firm umpiring would have kept Zimbabwe's spoiling tactics in check, just as it would have discouraged England from orchestrated appeals, for which they were warned by the match referee on the fourth day.

The root cause of the problems, however, was that the umpires — Robinson more so than Dunne — had already lost the confidence of the players through some erroneous judgments. One Zimbabwe tailender yesterday admitted that he was given three innings on Sunday morning before eventually "walking" for a close catch. Not that the dissatisfaction has harmed relations between the teams; on the contrary, they remain excellent.

One decision that the umpires did get right was to correct a general assumption that Gough was the man out going for the third run off the final ball of the match; as the batsmen did not cross, Knight was belatedly ruled run out for 96.

Craig White arrived here last night to reinforce the England party and is a strong candidate to play as batsman and third seamer in the second Test, which starts on Boxing Day. He has arrived as cover for Ronnie Irani, whose days on the tour appear numbered as, quite apart from his suspect fitness, the *management now* believes that his bowling action needs remodelling if he is to be successful at international level.

Diary, page 14

Kent snap up Wells with five-year deal

BY IVO TENNANT

ALAN WELLS, who was replaced as captain of Sussex after the end of last season, has joined the neighbouring county, Kent, on a five-year contract. Consistent middle-order batsman though he is, he will have been pleased to gain such good terms at the relatively advanced age of 35.

While this was being announced yesterday, Neil Taylor, another dependable middle-order batsman, was finalising negotiations to join Sussex, having been released by Kent towards the end of the season. He scored more than 1,500 runs in their second XI during the summer and was unfortunate not to play once in the county championship or in limited-overs cricket.

Nigel Bett, the Sussex secretary, worked for Kent at a time when Taylor was playing the best cricket of his career, but this is a batsman who is now 37 and who is more cumbersome in the field than Wells. The likelihood is that Taylor will score 1,000 first-class runs for Sussex next year, but there is no doubting that Kent have made the better acquisition.

Derek Ufton, the chairman of Kent cricket committee, said yesterday that Wells was "a class player" who was keen to have the security of a long contract. Tellingly, Ufton added that he had spoken to all the senior players at the club and they were unanimous in wanting Wells to join them. His experience as Sussex captain will be beneficial to Steve Marsh, the new Kent captain.

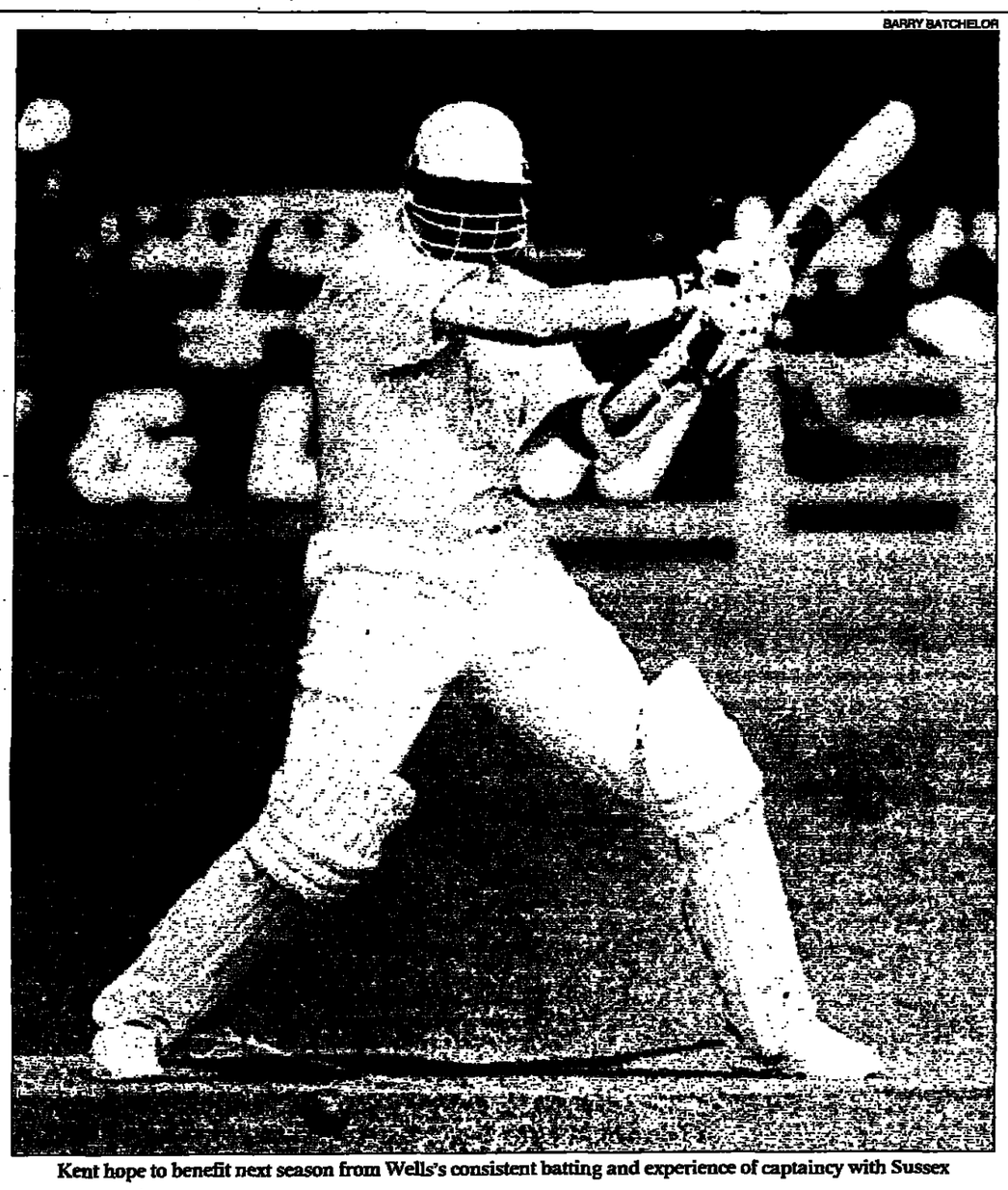
Wells made his one Test appearance against West Indies at the Oval in 1995 and has also captained the England A team. Since making his first-class debut in 1981, he has passed 1,000 runs in a season on ten occasions.

Wells, who rejected an offer from Gloucestershire, was with Sussex for 16 years. "The recent exodus of players from Hove was not the reason for my departure," he said. "The captaincy issue initiated all the upheaval and I decided to look around and see what was available. I was looking to plan my future with Sussex, finish my playing days there and then hopefully go into management at Hove."

Sussex have lost Ed Giddins, who was dismissed for drug-taking, Ian Salisbury, who has joined Surrey, and Danny Law, who has gone to Essex, and now their former captain and best batsman. The members, who are not a troublesome lot at Hove, are likely to have something to say about this, if not in quite such a vocal manner as the football supporters across the way at Brighton.

Kent, though, have managed to offset losing their two most consistent batsmen of the 1980s, Taylor and Mark Benson, who likewise was not retained. They will be looking to finish well up the championship table next year. As for Sussex, Peter Moores will soon discover whether the captaincy has been worth taking on.

BARRY BATCHELOR



Kent hope to benefit next season from Wells's consistent batting and experience of captaincy with Sussex

Century by Wessels dominates final day

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

AN UNBEATEN 103 from Kepler Wessels was one of the few highlights on the final day of the drawn three-day match between Eastern Province and an India XI in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

Wessels reached his 61st first-class century with a square cut for four off Woorkeri Raman, and promptly declared the Eastern Province first innings closed on 322 for four. The Indians had progressed to 130 for two when the rain-affected match ended, with Vikram Rathore making a sketchy 64 and Rahul Dravid a solid, unbeaten 50.

With the first Test match, against South Africa in Durban, only three days away, much Indian interest in the last day at St George's Park was centred on the young fast bowlers, David Johnson and Doda Ganesh, who are competing for the position of third seamer behind the established new-ball pair of Srinath and Prasad. Neither looked penetrative on a slow surface, however.

Johnson, 25, returned unimpressive figures of one for 88 from 19 overs, but, with his ability to skid the ball through, he is favoured to earn his second cap at Kingsmead.

Eastern Province, 108 for two overnight, progressed comfortably to their declaration 53 minutes before tea. Philip Amm (81) and Wessels shared in a third-wicket stand of 112 in 30 overs, with neither batsman in any trouble on the flat, slow pitch.

SQUASH

Rankings prove boost for Parke

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

CHRISTMAS arrived early for Simon Parke in the shape of an unexpected return to No 1 on the new England ranking list, issued yesterday by the Squash Rackets Association.

A sudden and chilling brush with testicular cancer stopped the career of the 24-year-old Yorkshireman a year ago. After surgery and extended chemotherapy, he was down at No 13 by the time his recovery was under way in the *middle of this year.*

"I have just got back to my flat in Nottingham from a week of Christmas partying with Del Harris in Essex," Parke said last night. "This is about the best way to finish a year that started so awfully."

Ironically, Harris was the player displaced from the top slot by Parke's recent run of form which included beating the world No 2 and No 3, Rodney Eyles and Peter Nicol, to reach the final of the German Masters last month.

Harris dropped to third place on the new list with another Essex player, Chris *Walker, the England captain,* marginally behind Parke in second place. "It was those wins over Eyles and Nicol that kept me ahead of Chris, I guess," Parke said.

The women's England list is led by Cassandra Jackman, the Norfolk player who has *reached a higher level of* performance under the eye of David Pearson, the new England national coach, beating the former world champion, Michelle Martin, in their last four encounters and winning convincingly on the North American circuit.

Parke's resurgence to England No 1 for the first time since 1991 also began in the United States with quarter-final places in the US Open and the Tournament of Champions. "It has been so busy since that I have had to treat competition matches as training," Parke said last night.

"I was worried about overdoing things in the summer, so I have not had enough training. I was thinking today that I should get down to some real work over Christmas. I start the Super Squash League with the ICL LionHerts squad in January."

Speaking of his regular check-ups, Parkes said: "I have this ten minutes of fear every month as I drive to the hospital But at least after February, that should be reduced to every two months.

"Getting back on court that first time in the autumn was a great moment. But this is just beginning to sink in as the real point at which my career starts again. They may have trouble getting me off this ranking."

EQUESTRIANISM

Dollar Girl bows out on low note

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NICK SKELTON'S hopes of ending his partnership with Dollar Girl on a high note were dashed as Great Britain's leading riders failed at the end of the Olympia championships on Sunday night.

Skelton, shocked to learn earlier in the day of the decision by Joe Haller, the owner, to sell the 16-year-old mare to Mexico, was kept out of the Grand Prix jump-off by a single error.

The same fate befell Michael Whitaker with Ashley, who was third in the World Cup qualifier on Saturday, and his elder brother, John, on Welham, and Geoff Billington, riding It's Otto, collected a disappointing eight faults apiece.

Germany scored a unique clean sweep of the top three positions, with Carsten-Otto Nagel capturing the £16,000 top prize on Windy. Ludger Beerbaum's share was £11,000 as runner-up on Priamos and Franke Sloothaak picked up £6,000 with Weihaiwej.

The only Briton to reach the eight-strong jump-off was Tim Stockdale, who took sixth place with Toggi Santa's Echo.

Skelton did not disguise his annoyance that Dollar Girl, who has won £1.2 million in her career, had been sold at the Geneva Show last week without his knowledge.

"I was not told until after I'd ridden her in Saturday's World Cup event and it was a real shock," he said. "I would have appreciated the opportunity to have bought her for breeding myself."

Becker pulls out of Davis Cup tie

BORIS BECKER will not play tennis for Germany in their Davis Cup first-round tie against Spain in February, Axel Meyer-Woelden, his manager, said yesterday. Meyer-Woelden said that Becker's withdrawal was "related to his health" and to the fact that the match will be played on clay, Becker's least favourite surface.

The announcement took the German Tennis Federation by surprise. It has contracts with Becker and Michael Stich that oblige both players to play Davis Cup matches. "We assume that this is not the last word," a federation spokesman said. *Becker has said that his main ambition for 1997 is to regain the* world No 1 ranking from Pete Sampras.

O'Neill set for debut

RUGBY LEAGUE: Julian O'Neill, who has joined St Helens from Auckland Warriors, makes his debut for the Super League champions against Wigan in the Boxing Day Challenge at Central Park. Alan Cross, the teenage hooker, also makes his first senior appearance for St Helens, who are without half-a-dozen first team players through injury.

Adams in hot water

CRICKET: Chris Adams, 26, the Derbyshire batsman, has been fined an undisclosed sum for saying that he wanted to leave the club. Adams, 26, claimed that he was desperate to move and had offered to buy out the *remaining two years of* his contract. Brian Holling, the cricket committee chairman, said that the comments were "breaches of contract".

For the record

RUGBY UNION: Norwich have claimed a British scoring record after winning a match 177-3. Norwich were away to Eccles and Attleborough in the quarter-finals of the Norfolk Cup. They led 78-0 at half-time and scored 29 tries to beat the previous record set in 1980 by the 7th Signal Regiment, who beat the 4th Armoured Workshop team 174-0.

Pilkington's honour

***GOLF: Mark Pilkington*, the Wales junior international, has won the Golf Foundation award for outstanding progress in 1996. Pilkington, 18, from the Nefyn club, won the McEvoy Trophy and reached the final of the British boys championship at Littlestone. He will receive the award from Bernard Gallacher at Wentworth in March.**

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland 100 Utah 94; Indiana 111 Toronto 92; Charlotte 102 Boston 98; Golden State 97 LA Clippers 91, Seattle 93 Dallas 79; Vancouver 91 Washing 87.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester 87 Leicester 82; Birmingham 88 Worthing 71

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Chester	15	10	5	1308	1239	20
London Towers	13	10	3	1116	980	20
Sheffield	14	10	4	1205	1038	20
Birmingham	15	9	6	1227	1166	18
Leopards	12	9	3	1164	1053	18
Derby	16	8	8	1399	1428	16
Manchester	14	8	6	1140	1078	16
Newcastle	11	8	3	991	961	16
Leicester	14	7	7	1192	1155	14
Thames Valley	13	5	8	1202	1229	10
Crystal Palace	15	3	12	1119	1274	6
Worthing	14	3	11	1105	1238	6
Hemel and Wat	14	0	14	1154	1483	0

BOWLS

CIS (INSURANCE) WELSH INDOOR SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP: At Heatherton: First round: R Weale (Radnorshire) bt W Thomas (Vale of Glamorgan) 21-6; A Withers (Rhondda) bt W Letman (Cardiff) 21-17, B Kingdon (Llanelli) bt A Price (Dinefwr) 21-13; P Diment (Heatherton) bt A David (Taff Ely) 21-8; J Downey (Merthyr Tydfil) bt D Vincent (Ogmr) 21-13; D Harding (Cardiff) bt M Kent (Ogmr) 21-9; B Broad (Merthyr Tydfil) w/o, R Cope (Newport) scr; D Gough (Severn Valley) bt C McGhee *(Torlaen) 21-16. Second round:* Weale bt Withers 21-7; Diment bt Kingdon 21-9; Downey bt Harding 21-7; Gough bt Broad 21-7. At Port Talbot: First round: G Ellis (Bro Ogwr) bt D Kingdon (Llanelli) 21-14; J Price (Swansea) bt D Wilkins (Port Talbot) 21-14; R Trousdale (Flintn) bt G Thomas (Dinefwr) 21-11; B Sansom (Newport) w/o; D Comes (Sealand) scr; G Williams (Pembrokeshire) bt W Samuel (Llanelli) 21-16; T Sullivan (Swansea) bt A Matthews (Earlswood) 21-20; R Williams (Newport) w/o; A Skymme (Torlaen) scr; K Wilins (Earlswood) bt K Henderson (Islwyn) 21-7 *Second round:* Price bt Ellis 21-8, Trousdale bt Sansom 21-7, G Williams bt Sullivan 21-15; Wilkins bt K Williams 21-9.

DUMBARTON: Taylor bicentenary challenge: D Gourlay (Prestwick) bt G Robertson (East Lothian) 21-20.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Perth (final day of four): South Australia 258 (J Brayshaw 73, D *Lehmann 52) and 391-7 (J Siddons 81, G* Blewett 66, J Gillespie 58, G Parker 52 not out); Western Australia 560-8 (J Langer 274 not out, D Martyn 104, J Gillespie 5-64) Match drawn.

CYCLING

ROAD RACE: Leicestershire RC handicap (Belton, 35.5 miles): 1, P Hart (Optimum Performance RT) 1hr 31min 08sec; 2, D Perry (Chesterfield Coureurs); 3, G Green (Leicestershire RC) all same time.

TIME-TRIAL: Border CA (Bentley, Hampshire, 10 miles): 1, B Buss (RAF CC) 22min 03sec; 2, L Pick (Team Chiltern) 22 14; 3, P Pickup (Farnborough and Camberley CC) 22 42.

CYCLO-CROSS: Stratford Wheelers (Northern Moor, Manchester, 12 miles): 1, S Knight (Halesowen C and AC) 58min 16sec; 2, C Young (Pace Satellite TV) at 38sec; 3, B Green (Oldham Century RC) at 2min 23sec Sowerby Bridge CC (Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, 8 miles): 1, R Thackray (Pace Factory RT) 46min 30sec, 2, C Horsfield (Shf) at 45sec; 3, D Connolly (Bronte Wheelers) at 1min 30sec

EQUESTRIANISM

OLYMPIA: International championships: P & O Christmas Knockout: 1, Fiorella (G Goosen, GB); 2, Dylano 006 (L McNaught-Mandil, Swi); equal 3, Toggi Interview (T Stockdale, GB) and Nobel House III (J Renwick, GB) P & O Grand Prix: 1, Windy (C-O Nagel, Ger) 0 flts, 32 91sec, 2, P S Priamos (L Beerbaum, Ger) 0, 33.09, 3, San Patrignano Weihaiwej (F Sloothaak, Ger) 0, 33 14

FOOTBALL

SPANISH LEAGUE: Tenerife 5 Español 1, Sevilla 0 Betis 3

DUTCH LEAGUE: JC Kerkrade 6 SC Heerenveen 1; Fortuna Sittard 0 RKC Waalwijk 0; Ajax 0 PSV Eindhoven 2, FC Volendam 1 Vitesse Arnhem 1, NEC Nijmegen 1 Feyenoord 2, FC Twente Enschede 1 AZ Alkmaar 0

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Fiorentina 2 Cagliari 0

ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Velez 0 Ferro 2; Newell's 1 Racing 0; Deportivo Español 2 Estudiantes 2; Huracan 0 Colon 1, Banfield 0 Lanus 1; Union 2 San Lorenzo 0; Gimnasia La Plata 6 Huracan Comentes 3, Independiente 3 River 1, Boca 0 Gimnasia Jujuy 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New York Rangers 7 Florida 3; St Louis 7 Los Angeles 4; Detroit 6 Edmonton 2, Chicago 2 Philadelphia, Calgary 7 Phoenix 2

SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr 3 Nottingham 3 Cardiff 5 Manchester 1, Newcastle 5 Basingstoke 4, Sheffield 7 Bracknell 2.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Kingston 1 Slough 5, Medway 2 Guildford 4; Peterborough 2 Telford 13, Solihull 5 Swindon 2.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Blackburn 5 Whitley 8.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Murrayfield 5 Paisley 7.

RUGBY UNION

RFU INTERMEDIATE CUP: Sixth round draw: North: Belgrave v Northern; Doncaster v Huddersfield; Market Bosworth v Broadstreet, Middlesbrough v Whitchurch South: Colchester v Cinderford, Sudbury v Old Verulamian, Thanet Wanderers v Guildford and Godalming; Torquay Athletic v Cambridge Ties to be played on January 25

RFU JUNIOR CUP: Sixth round draw: *North: Billingham v Market Rasen and* Louth; Crewe and Nantwich v Loughborough Students, Huddersfield YMCA v Old Abbotstonians; Southport v Birmingham City Officials v Alcester South: Penwick v Wells; Tadley v Folkestone; Tonbridge v Harpenden; Topsham v Hadleigh Ties to be played on January 25

SQUASH

ENGLAND RANKINGS: Men: 1, S Parke (Yorkshire), 2, C Walker (Essex), 3, D Harris (Essex), 4, M Carter (Oxfordshire); 5, M Chalonar (Lincolnshire), 6, S Meads (Berkshire) 7, N Taylor (Lancashire), 8, P Johnson (Kent), 9, J Nicolle (Nottinghamshire); 10, D Meddings (Surrey). Women: 1, C Jackman (Norfolk), 2, S Wright (Kent), 3, S Horner (Yorkshire); 4, J Martin (Northumbria); 5, L Charman (Sussex), 6 F Geaves (Gloucestershire), 7, R Macree (Essex) 8, T Sherton (Staffordshire), 9, J Thacker (Yorkshire); 10, S Brind (Kent)

TABLE TENNIS

ANDOVER: Yasaka grand prix: Men's singles: Semi-finals: M Syed (Eng) bt E Walker (Scot) 21-11, 21-13; A Eden (Lancs) bt R Jenkins (Wales) 21-19, 21-6 Final: Syed bt Eden 21-14, 19-21, 21-8. Women's singles: Final: K Owaleki (Middx) bt L Radford (Essex) 12-21, 21-17, 22-20

TENNIS

MIAMI: Orange Bowl junior tournament: Finals: Boys (under-18): A Martin (Sp) bt A di Pasquale (It) 6-4, 6-2 Girls (under-18): A Alcazar (Sp) bt K Srebotnik (Slovenia) 6-3, 6-0

ALFRETON: LTA Winter Series: Finals: Men: M Barnard (SA) bt S Amey (Derbyshire) 7-6, 6-1 Women: K Hughes (Leics) bt T Croson (Derbyshire) 7-6, 6-4

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday December 28

Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA PREMIERSHIP

1 Arsenal v A Villa X
2 Chelsea v Sheff Wed 1
3 Coventry v Midd'bro 1
4 Derby v Blackburn 1
5 Everton v Wimbledon 1
6 Leicester v Nottm F 1
7 Man Utd v Leeds 1
8 Newcastle v Tott'ham 1
9 W Ham v Sunderland X

FIRST DIVISION

10 Barnsley v Man City 1
11 Bolton v Southend 1
12 Charlton v Wolves X
13 C Palace v Stoke X
14 Hudd'fd v Ipswich 2
15 Norwich v Bradford 1
16 Oxford v Reading 1
17 P Vale v Portsmouth 2
18 Sheff Utd v Oldham 1
19 Swindon v Grimsby X
20 West Brom v QPR 2

SECOND DIVISION

21 Brentford v Chest'f'd 1
22 Bristol R v Millwall 2
23 Burnley v Gillingham 1
24 Crewe v Bournemouth 1
25 Luton v Wycombe X
26 Notts Co v Plymouth 2
27 Peterboro v Wrexham 1
28 Preston v Bristol C X
29 Rotherham v Bury 2
30 Shrewsbury v York X
31 Stockport v Watford 1
32 Walsall v Blackpool 1

THIRD DIVISION

33 Colchester v Fulham 1
34 Darlington v Leyton O X
35 Exeter v Cardiff 2
36 Hartlepool v Hereford 1
37 Lincoln v Chester 2
38 Mansfield v Doncaster X
39 Northampton v Barnet 1

SCOTTISH PREMIER

40 Aberdeen v Hibernian 1
41 Celtic v Dunfermline 1
42 Hearts v Motherwell 1
43 Kilmarnock v Rangers 2
44 Raith v Dundee U 2

SCOTTISH FIRST

45 Airdrie v Partick 1
46 Clyde'k v St J'stone 2
47 Dundee v E Fife 1
48 St Mirren v Falkirk X
49 Stirling v G Morton 1

DRAWS (home teams): Arsenal, West Ham, Charlton, Crystal Palace, Swindon, Luton, Preston, Shrewsbury, Darlington, Mansfield, St Mirren.

BEST DRAWS: Charlton, Crystal Palace, Preston, Shrewsbury, Darlington.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Chelsea, Bolton, Norwich, Burnley, Hartlepool.

Aways: Queens Park Rangers, Chester, Rangers Draws: Crystal Palace, Shrewsbury, Darlington

NEXT WEEK'S FORECAST

Wednesday January 1

Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA PREMIERSHIP

1 Arsenal v Middlesbro 1
2 Chelsea v Liverpool 2
3 Coventry v Sunderl'd 1
4 Derby v Sheff Wed X
5 Leicester v Tottenham X
6 Newcastle v Leeds 1
7 Soton v Wimbledon X
8 West Ham v Nott'm F 1

FIRST DIVISION

9 Barnsley v Oldham 1
10 Birm'gham v Man City X
11 Bolton v Bradford 1
12 Charlton v Ipswich 2
13 C Palace v Reading 1
14 Hudd'fd v Stoke 2
15 Norwich v Portsmouth 1
16 Oxford v Grimsby 1
17 P Vale v Southend 1
18 Sheff Utd v Wolves X
19 Swindon v QPR X
20 West Brom v Tranmere 1

SECOND DIVISION

21 Brentford v Wycombe 1
22 Bristol R v Plymouth X
23 Burnley v Chest'f'd X
24 Crewe v Millwall 2
25 Luton v Bury 1
26 Notts Co v Bourn'm'th 2
27 Peterboro v Watford 1
28 Preston v Wrexham 1
29 Roth'ham v Gill'gham 1
30 Shrewsbury v Blackp'l 1
31 Stockport v York 1
32 Walsall v Bristol C 2

THIRD DIVISION

33 Colchester v Leyton O 1
34 Darlington v Carlisle 2
35 Exeter v Barnet X
36 Hartlepool v Hull 1
37 Lincoln v Wigan 2
38 Mansfield v Fulham 2
39 North'pton v Cardiff 1

SCOTTISH PREMIER

40 Dundee U v Aberdeen 1
41 Dunf'mline v Raith 1
42 Hibernian v Hearts X
43 Motherwell v Kilmarn'k 1

SCOTTISH FIRST

44 E Fife v Stirling 2
45 Falkirk v Airdrie 1
46 G Morton v St Mirren 2
47 Partick v Clydebank 1
48 St J'stone v Dundee 1

SCOTTISH SECOND

49 Ayr v Stranraer 1

DRAWS: Derby, Leicester, Southampton, Birmingham, Sheffield United, Swindon, Bristol Rovers, Burnley, Exeter, Hibernian.

BEST DRAWS: Derby, Leicester, Bristol Rovers, Burnley, Exeter.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Arsenal, Newcastle, Port Vale, Peterborough, Colchester Aways: Liverpool, Bournemouth, Carlisle Draws: Leicester, Burnley Exeter

☐ Vince Wright

ICE HOCKEY

Morrison moving to Germany

BY A CORRESPONDENT

BILL MORRISON, the Great Britain and Kingston Hawks goaltender, is leaving British ice hockey after being given the chance to play in Europe's strongest league.

Morrison, 32, is joining Ratinger-Lowen, the German Elite League team, after impressing during Britain's recent run in the Olympic Games qualifying competition. They failed to ensure progress last week — needing to beat Switzerland, they could manage only a 3-3 draw at the *Sheffield Arena — but Morri*son was outstanding.

Morrison, who started the season with Basingstoke Bison, the Superleague club, joined Kingston, of the Premier League, six weeks ago, but said that a move to Ratinger was too good an opportunity to miss. "I've enjoyed every minute of my time in Hull, but this is a chance I can't pass up," he said. "At my age, the opportunity may not come again. Playing in the best league in Europe will just be like playing for the Great Britain team every night."

*Keith Milhench, the Kings*ton coach, was disappointed at losing Morrison but understood his decision. "Bill's a great guy and it's a great chance for him," he said. "We wish him all the best."

Morrison's move leaves the Hawks with a problem at goaltender, and Milhench will give Joe Watkins, 17, his chance. "Joe has proved he is capable of filling the No 1 position and now is his chance," Milhench said.

Andrew Longmore continues a review by *Times* writers of 1996's sporting highlights

Indurain ascends to the ranks of mere mortals

Following the Tour de France is an acquired taste. It depends on whether your stomach can take hours of switchback motoring and gallons of coffee that has the consistency of tar. It depends on whether you like to know where you will be sleeping at night or where you might be going the next day. It depends, in these Euro-sensitive times, on whether you like the French, because, for all the foreign domination of the race, it is still their celebration and little quarter is given to foreigners.

For the five years before the 1996 Tour, the organisers had been intent on devising a route that would release their national institution from the grip of the farmer's son from Pamplona, and every year Miguel Induráin had systematically destroyed their schemes and transformed their beloved *Grand Boucle* into a Sunday afternoon picnic in Paris.

Induráin had won the Tour for five successive years. Worse than that, he had won without fuss and, the French claimed, without style. He had won the time trials and defended his lead in the mountains, always doing enough to cover his back, always leaving a little bit for tomorrow. For the French, it was heresy; and there was no end in sight.

Induráin was clear favourite to prove himself the greatest of all time when the 83rd Tour snaked off from the Dutch town of s'Hertogenbosch on a dismal morning in late June.

The concensus among the café pundits was that stage seven, the first Alpine stage, would provide the first real clue to the eventual outcome. It was 124 miles long and included three climbs totalling almost 20,000 feet, the last a brute up to the pretty ski resort of Les Arcs. "A bitch of a day," Phil Anderson, the Australian journalist who rode the Tour 13 times, said. Not so, it seemed, for Induráin as he shadowed the leaders up the final miles, his face set in its usual half-smile, his legs working like pistons.

Beneath the red-and-white banner five kilometres from the end, Induráin rode steadily alongside Alex Zulle while the pace-setter, Aitor Garmendia, dropped away, leaving the way open for Zulle, his team-mate, and Induráin to haul themselves to the summit.

In the press room above the finishing line, where journalists had gathered to watch the closing stages on a bank of television sets, the excited chatter dropped to a whisper. They sensed this was the first decisive moment of the Tour. Yet only slowly did it begin to dawn just how decisive.

The cameras panned back down the field to show Zulle, who had fallen back, then flicked to another familiar figure, pushing the pedals as if dragging a tank behind him. The commentator's voice rose to a frenzy of disbelief and triumph. "*Induráin en difficulté, ooh, la, la, la, la* ..." The press room fell silent. Rominger, Riis, Berzin, Olano and Ugrumov, men who had waited years for this moment, surged past. Induráin was dropped.

'For the French, it was heresy; and there was no end in sight'

Outside, the crowds were being entertained by the usual nonsense that heralds the arrival of the Tour while keeping one eye on the road for the first sign of the leaders. Freed, on a Saturday, from my daily reporting chores, I joined the throng, clinging precariously to the hillside above the road, blissfully unaware of the drama unfolding two miles below.

In the distance, I could see the riders toiling up the last kilometre, but not clearly enough to distinguish colours or faces. A wave of cheering echoed up the mountain, sweeping the leader, Luc Leblanc, a Frenchman, on to the finish. He soon emerged round the corner, elation overcoming exhaustion at the sight of the finish.

Nothing unusual, the sages thought. Leblanc was an erratic character, but a mountain goat on his day. He would not win the Tour. Seconds later, a gaggle of riders appeared. I could not see the blue-and-white vest of Induráin, just presumed it was there. Then Zulle passed, all alone. Then, as I was about to jump down from my perch, a hunched figure laboured round the bend. It looked like Induráin. But surely not this far down?

When I returned to the fervour of the press room, the full impact of the collapse hit home. It was a measure of Induráin's hold over the Tour that some still maintained it was all part of the champion's masterplan. Most sensed the ending of an era, just as they had when Merckx was left by Thevenet on the climb to Pra Loup in 1975 and Lemond broke in the Pyrenees in 1991.

Only later did we learn that Induráin had refused a drink from Zulle four kilometres from home, then taken one from his team car, incurring a 20-second penalty. Induráin lost a total of four minutes and 19 seconds that day. He never recovered. On July 17, the day after his 32nd birthday, he had to ride into his home town of Pamplona a beaten man. In cycling, dynasties change slowly but with awful clarity.

The absurd elation of the French, freed at last from Induráin's yoke, heightened the sadness of the fall. Unfortunately, their own champion, Laurent Jalabert, suffered even more than Induráin, losing 11 minutes. In Paris, two weeks later, the crown passed from a Spaniard to a Dane, Bjarne Riis. Induráin finished eleventh.

It will seem strange that in such a prodigious sporting year, the dominating theme should be defeat. But there was a lot of it about. Through the year, I have watched Greg Norman lose the Masters, England lose the European football championship, Lynn Simpson lose gold by the width of a thumbnail and Big Mig lose five years worth of invincibility in ten seconds of weakness.

So little joy, so much anguish. The Great Summer of Sport indeed.

ON BOXING DAY

Simon Barnes recalls how a man with golden shoes ran into history

MIKE POWELL / ALLSPORT

A man alone: Induráin, trailing in the wake of the leading riders, grimaces as he struggles towards the finish line at Les Arcs

SAILING: DISPUTE RAGES BETWEEN SKIPPER AND RACE DIRECTOR IN BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Donovan faces sack for rocking boat

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

TEMPERS are fraying in the BT Global Challenge as the fleet hobbles towards New Zealand. The past few days have seen a serious falling-out between Chay Blyth, the race director, and Adrian Donovan, the skipper of *Heath Insured II*, which some observers believe could lead to the first sacking of a skipper in this increasingly troubled race.

The dispute with Donovan, who is leading a crew for the second time after completing a circumnavigation in the British Steel Challenge four years ago, reached its peak immediately after *Heath* became the sixth yacht to suffer a serious rig failure on Friday, which almost brought the mast down and has effectively put it out of contention for this leg.

For Donovan, this seemed to be the last straw. He is believed to have told his sponsors, the City insurance firm, C. E. Heath, that he considered the race to be a "farce" when at least six of the 14 identical yachts had serious gear failure. He said that, unlike in the last race, when a rigging screw problem caused difficulties on seven yachts in the Southern Ocean, this time nobody seemed to have a clue what was going wrong. Donovan went on to suggest that the racing should be stopped and positions awarded according to each yacht's time through a mid-leg waypoint, adding that all he could now do was not withdraw but simply "deliver" his boat to New Zealand.

Blyth was not pleased and, according to one observer, had decided to dismiss Donovan when he reaches Wellington. The men had what was described as a series of "spats" throughout Thursday and Friday of last week. Blyth, who was travelling to New Zealand yesterday, said that he would do nothing about Donovan without consulting him, the sponsor and the crew. He confined his comment to: "There is no doubt about his [Donovan's] seamanship, but perhaps there might be a distraction here and there."

The background to the row is the increasing disatisfaction felt by C. E. Heath executives with Donovan's performance so far. The company wants its boat in the top half of the fleet and is believed to be disappointed with Donovan's attitude and his alleged failure to motivate his crew.

Another source said that, in contradiction to the official reports circulated through the race press office, that talk of "high morale" on *Heath*, which is struggling along in last place, the opposite is in fact the case. "The mood is very, very low; they've all realised what it means to be in the toughest yacht race and it's not been a good race," the source said.

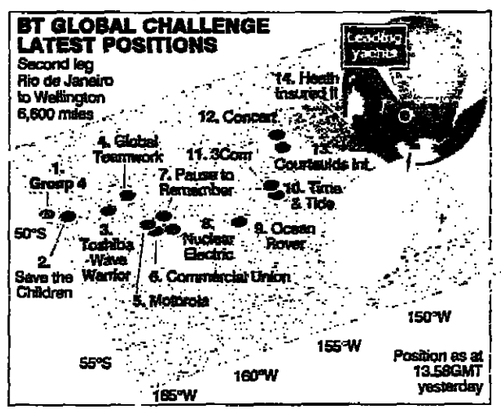
The issue of Donovan's future is made all the more delicate by C. E. Heath's sponsorship of Samantha Brewster, who completed a single-handed circumnavigation earlier this year in a Challenge yacht and is Donovan's partner. She was in Rio during the first stopover and is expected to fly to Wellington for the second one.

The problems with *Heath* underline just how competitive this race has become and the importance for the paid skippers not just to get round the course but also to motivate their crews and do as well as possible.

Donovan is not the only one who has had difficulties. James Hatfield, on *Time & Tide*, has had the odd run-in with members of his crew, while rumours have circulated since the beginning of the race that Borris Webber's *Courtaulds International* is not a happy ship.

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE LATEST POSITIONS

Second leg
Rio de Janeiro to Wellington
6,600 miles



DISTANCE TO WELLINGTON: 1, Group 4 998 miles, 2, Save The Children 1,031, 3, Toshiba Wave Warrior 1,117, 4, Global Teamwork 1,157, 5, Motorola 1,192, 6, Commercial Union 1,202, 7, Pause To Remember 1,212, 8, Nuclear Electric 1,218; 9, Ocean Rover 1,357; 10, Time & Tide 1,439; 11, 3Com 1,444; 12, Concert 1,480, 13, Courtaulds International 1,483, 14, Heath Insured II 1,707

Plattner in repair race against time

By Malcolm McKeag

AS THE 95 yachts in one of ocean racing's great classics — the Sydney to Hobart, which starts as is traditional on Boxing Day — make ready, the crew of the favourite, Hasso Plattner's *Morning Glory*, is once again mast-building instead of practising. The maxi broke her mast off Sydney Heads in a practice session, the third time in four regattas that Plattner has seen his rig collapse.

At £180,000 a mast, racing at the leading edge in the biggest boats is proving even more expensive than Plattner, the German magnate, had expected. *Morning Glory* uses advanced carbon fibre masts which push the weight-strength trade-off to the edge.

Mere ounces of weight saved high aloft can be the equivalent to pounds saved on deck or in the hull. After winning the Cape to Rio race last year with an already advanced rig, Plattner commissioned a new spar. That collapsed in its first regatta, in Hawaii in August. The repaired mast broke again during the San Francisco Big Boat series in September. A new mast was built — and it is this spar that has broken.

According to the owner, it was the mast that failed this time rather than a rigging failure leading to mast collapse. *Morning Glory's* crew is hoping to rig the original mast, flown in from Auckland, in time for the start.

The 630-mile race, from Sydney down the New South Wales coast and across the gale-torn Bass Strait to Hobart, is one of the toughest. It has in the past been won by British yachts — notably Edward Heath while Prime Minister — but this year has attracted only two Britons: Richard Collard's *Lady Queso* and Patrick Broughton's *Grandee*.

RUGBY UNION

SRU pledges new impetus

By Our Sports Staff

THE Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) yesterday revealed its plans to promote development of the game at all levels during the new year. Fred McLeod, the president of the SRU, said: "What we have achieved this year is to put in place the foundation for future success. The new year provides the opportunity for turning vision into reality."

The commitments are to greater international success, by ensuring that Scotland fully benefits from the introduction of professionalism at district level; to build strength in depth at club level through the newly-announced Scottish Club Rugby Development Initiative; and to market the game in better ways to new audiences.

By adopting an overall approach that links together all aspects of the development and marketing of the game, the SRU claims that it is providing a fresh focus for rugby in Scotland — at the end of a year that has seen great change in northern hemisphere rugby.

"The three SRU commitments for 1997 and beyond provide an agenda to which all of Scottish rugby can subscribe, as well as providing a co-ordinated approach to the challenges ahead," McLeod said.

The SRU believes that during this year it has made clear its commitment to the development of rugby. In making good that commitment, however, the SRU is insisting that Scottish rugby must also address its structural weaknesses. The changes will involve initiatives aimed at strengthening rugby both within clubs as well as in the wider community — and other fresh marketing and promotional activities.

BOXING DAY IN THE TIMES

TOP FORM
How good is One Man and how will he approach the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park? Richard Dunwoody, the three-time champion jockey who rides him, writes exclusively in *The Times*

KNOWN FORM
Test your knowledge with the prize Jumbo Sports Crossword

ALL THE FORM
A full guide to the Boxing Day football and racing programmes

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	15	140	fair	varied	fair	cloud	-3	22/12
(Excellent piste conditions; wind-blown off piste)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbuhel	5	45	fair	poor	fair	cloud	2	20/12
(Most upper runs OK; much-needed snow expected today)								
Obergurgl	40	140	good	varied	good	cloud	2	23/12
(Fresh powder on firm base; more snow forecast)								
Soll	15	60	fair	varied	poor	cloud	3	14/12
(Reasonable piste skiing though odd bare patch)								
St Anton	45	190	good	varied	fair	rain	3	23/12
(Great skiing on fresh snow above 1,600 metres)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	80	180	good	heavy	good	cloud	5	19/12
(Some low runs slushy, otherwise great skiing)								
Menbel	100	160	good	varied	fair	cloud	8	20/12
(Slight thaw below 2,000 metres; upper runs remain good)								
La Plagne	100	200	good	fair	open	snow	4	23/12
(Flattering powder on upper runs, heavier lower down)								
Flaine	80	230	fair	heavy	heavy	cloud	3	23/12
(Fresh dusting above 2,000 metres though wet lower down)								
S Chevalier	80	210	good	heavy	fair	snow	5	23/12
(Superb skiing on upper levels after fresh powder)								
Val Thorens	180	240	good	crust	good	cloud	1	19/12
(Best piste skiing above 2,200 metres, icier below)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	110	240	good	varied	good	cloud	2	23/12
(Excellent piste skiing after snowfall)								
Livigno	70	230	good	varied	good	cloud	-1	23/12
(Good piste skiing throughout resort)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	70	170	good	varied	fair	fair	1	21/12
(Well-groomed pistes at all levels)								
Verbier	60	230	good	fair	soft	cloud	0	23/12
(Excellent piste skiing despite flat light)								
Wengen	35	100	good	heavy	fair	cloud	5	14/12
(Despite milder temperatures, good skiing continues)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 33

CALTROP
(c) An iron ball armed with four sharp prongs or spikes, placed like the angles of a tetrahedron, so that when thrown on the ground it has always one spike projecting upwards. Used to obstruct the advance of cavalry and cause sore feet to horses. Ultimately, perhaps, from Latin *calx, calcis* a heel + *trappa* a gin or snare.

CROCKET
(b) One of the terminal buds or knobs on a stag's horn. From the Romance *crocca* a crook or bud. "You will discourse of the span and the pearls, of the antlers and the crockets."

CARCOON
(a) A clerk in India under the British Raj. From the Mahratti *kárkún* a clerk, Persian *kār-kun* operator, manager. *kār* = action, work business. " 'He laboured', says Duff, 'as assiduously as any carcoon under his government'. "

COPIA
(b) Plenty, a plentiful supply, now usually an abbrev. of *copia verborum*, abundance of words, a copious vocabulary. From the Latin *copia* plenty. Addison. *Guardian*, 1713: "Since they [women] have such a copia verborum, or plenty of words, it is pity they should not put it to some use."

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FOOTBALL

Foul play pervades season of goodwill

ROB HUGHES

Overseas View

IT IS definitely not the season to be merry among overseas footballers. In many places around the globe, sleaze and corruption bring the world game to the end of an impoverished year.

In Brazil, Pelé coined the phrase "the beautiful game", but, in his role as Minister for Sport, he had to dismiss 12 ministry officials in the week before Christmas because of alleged mishandling of funds.

"I came to do an honest job," the greatest player there has been said. With people calling for him, too, to resign, Pelé announced that his 12 unwelcome officials were under suspicion of awarding multi-million dollar contracts without bids to a favoured television and radio station, to a computer service company, and a public relations firm. Moreover, Pelé said, they had been falsifying their expense accounts and using aeroplane tickets issued to athletes.

From Rio to Milan. There, Paolo Maldini, the captain of AC Milan and of Italy, and the son of the new national team coach, may struggle to make the World Cup qualifying game against England at Wembley on February 12. It is not because of the drastic loss of form that has afflicted Maldini and his club — Milan lost yet again on Sunday, 1-0 at home against Parma. Rather, it was the fact that Maldini, the most marketed profile in his country, suffered a fractured cheekbone from an elbow. In the same game, George Weah, the world player of the year, twisted an ankle and is also probably out until mid-February. All this, and Paul Ince sent off again, apparently for dissent, during Internazionale's drawn game at lowly Reggiana.

On to Belgium and the outbursts of Gilles de Bilde, 25, an international striker, and the main catalyst of Belgian football. During the weekend he punched an opponent, Krist Porte, so severely that he broke the player's nose and damaged an eye. Doctors are now trying to assess whether the eye can be saved, and Michel D'Hooghe, the president of the Belgian Football Association, is contemplating aloud whether de Bilde can be permitted to continue in the sport. Anderlecht, de Bilde's club, are expecting a writ from Porte and the media is clamouring for judicial action.

Two years ago Atlético Madrid offered de Bilde a fortune to play in Spain. He declined, stating that he wished to mature in Belgium. Critics say that he never did, and apologists point to his tortured family life — his mother is in an institution for neurological patients and his father suffered a brain haemorrhage last year.

"I think the boy is entitled to psychological assistance," Michel Verschueren, the Anderlecht manager, said. Either that, or a prison sentence, for de Bilde had already been dropped from the national team after allegedly headbutting one male nurse and punching another at the hospital where his father lay ill. Indeed, de Bilde has a suspended two-year jail sentence, for head-butting two Scout leaders in 1992.

One would think that Barcelona, where Bobby Robson is coach, is a place of relative calm and shelter, but the pressures continue to mount, even in victory. On Sunday Barcelona closed to within two points of Real Madrid by beating Celta Vigo. Yet the lone goal, by Miguel Angel Nadal, was not nearly enough for 80,000 fanatics in the Nou Camp, who jeered, showed the white handkerchiefs and disparaged the performance.

Now to Prague. One would think that reaching the European championship final was all that they could dream of in the Czech Republic. However, with the exodus of players — Patrik Berger to Liverpool and Karel Poborski to Manchester United among them — comes discontent. The last time that Czechoslovak football was a force on the Continent, in 1976, when it won the European title, the sport was a release from hardship under communism.

Now, since the old regime was swept away, the Czech population finds that it cannot even watch its players abroad. There are televisions, of course, but others put such a price on the pay-per-view revolution that football is beyond the means of the people.

A German television company, UFA, has the rights to televise Czech Republic World Cup qualifying games. The German price for the Czech team is $1 million per away game . . . and, for the first time in 21 years, there was no broadcast of the last game, played in Yugoslavia. Instead of gratitude, because the team lost 1-0, one supporter, Jan Krupka, sat on a bar stool, viewing an old football video, and complaining: "Since 1976, I had not missed one game. This is progress? It would never have happened under communism."

In Guatemala City yesterday shots were fired from the crowd during a league game, killing two players and injuring another, and in Colombia it was reported that armed men had called at the home in Medellín of René Higuita, he of the scorpion save at Wembley. Higuita was not at home, but his maid was. The men forced their way in and exploded a bomb, but, mercifully, injured nobody . . . merry Christmas.

SHAUN BOTTERILL

Maldini, the Italy captain, may miss the game with England in February after his cheekbone was smashed

Australia considers joining race to stage World Cup

BY DAVID MADDOCK

THE Australian Football Association (AFA) will consider a suggestion from Sepp Blatter, the secretary general of Fifa, football's world governing body, that it should bid to stage the 2006 World Cup finals. A spokesman for the AFA said: "It is an interesting concept that we will look at carefully."

Blatter caused a stir when, on a visit to Australia to inspect the facilities under construction for the Olympic Games of 2000, he urged the authorities to bid for the World Cup. "If Australia has the courage to bid for the Olympics, then it should also have the courage and initiative to ask for the World Cup," he said.

Blatter's motives have aroused suspicion in Europe, where England and Germany are expected to compete for the right to stage the finals. The Germans, in particular, questioned why their countryman hinted strongly that the Australians will stand as good a chance as any nation of winning the right to host the tournament.

South Africa and Argentina are also in the running to stage the finals, but history suggests that they should be held in Europe in 2006, after Japan and South Korea jointly host the tournament in 2002.

Should Australia enter the bidding, it will place Terry Venables in an awkward position. As the newly-appointed coach of the Australia team, he will be expected to support fully any bid. Venables, however, will feel divided loyalties after coaching the England team during the successful staging of the European championship in this country.

Transfer activity continued yesterday in the build-up to the crowded holiday programme. Matt Jackson, the Everton defender, travelled to Norwich City to discuss terms after the clubs agreed a fee of £450,000. Jackson should sign in time for the Boxing Day fixture against Queens Park Rangers.

Another transfer mystery surrounds Ilie Dumitrescu, the West Ham United midfield player. Romanian news agencies reported yesterday that he will leave England to join America Cuidad, the Mexican side, for a fee of £1 million on December 30.

Manchester City will have formal talks with Frank Clark, who resigned last week as manager of Nottingham Forest, within the next week. Clark has indicated that he is interested in the vacancy at Maine Road, and will speak to Francis Lee, the City chairman, on his return from holiday. City have been searching for a new manager since the resignation of Steve Coppell and Clark is thought to be the preference of Stephen Boler, a principal shareholder in the club.

Across the city at Manchester United, there was bad news for Gary Pallister, the England defender. He has suffered a recurrence of the back problem that forced him to miss much of last season and is facing a lay-off of up to two months. "We are just hoping Gary can rest and will not be out for as long this time," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said.

Kilmarnock put faith in Williamson to ensure survival

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BOBBY WILLIAMSON last night took charge of Kilmarnock as their manager until the end of the season, despite apparently being third choice for the vacancy.

Kilmarnock, the Ayrshire club, confirmed that Williamson is making his move from reserve team coach to manager's office permanent. He has been charged with the task of keeping Kilmarnock, who are second-bottom, in the Scottish League premier division.

The announcement came after the club admitted speaking to Mark Hateley, of Queens Park Rangers, and Alex MacDonald, of Airdrieonians.

Williamson stepped in as caretaker four matches ago after Ronnie Hamilton, the new Kilmarnock chairman, dismissed Alex Totten.

Kilmarnock said that they were "impressed by his qualities" in reference to their talks with MacDonald. MacDonald came within 180 minutes of leading Heart of Midlothian to the Scottish league and cup double in 1986 and has since led Airdrieonians to two Scottish Cup finals.

Hamilton said: "In his short spell as caretaker manager, Bobby has demonstrated he has the leadership qualities required to keep the team where they belong, in the premier division. He has the full backing of the board, the playing staff and loyal Kilmarnock supporters, who are sure he will do well for the club in the months ahead.

"We would also like to record our appreciation to the board of Airdrie, who allowed us to approach their manager, Alex MacDonald. We had a friendly discussion with him and were deeply impressed by his qualities. At the end of the day, the board decided that results since Bobby took over justified us giving him a chance as club manager until the end of the season."

Williamson has guided Kilmarnock to victories over Heart of Midlothian and Aberdeen and will take the team to Hibernian on Boxing Day.

Dave Bowman, the Dundee United defender, will serve a three-match suspension in January. Bowman was booked in the defeat by Celtic at Parkhead on Saturday and has now gone over the disciplinary points' threshold.

Bowman, 32, will be available for the holiday period, but will miss matches against Kilmarnock (January 4), Dunfermline (January 11) and Heart of Midlothian (January 18).

Meanwhile, Bert Paton, the Dunfermline manager, defended Marc Millar, who will miss almost the whole of January after being suspended for five matches.

"I don't know how Marc has this bad disciplinary record because he's not that kind of player," Paton said.

Jocky Scott, the Hibernian manager, hopes to sign Brian Grant, the Aberdeen midfield player, before the match against Kilmarnock on Boxing Day. Scott is talking to Grant, 32, after agreeing a fee of £75,000 with Aberdeen.

Peacock travelling on the circle line

THE football career of Gavin Peacock went full circle yesterday when he joined Queens Park Rangers, the club where his professional career began nine years ago.

Peacock, 29, has been on loan at QPR, the Nationwide League first division club, for a month, having fallen out of favour at Chelsea after Ruud Gullit took over as player-manager in the summer. Peacock, a midfield player who scored twice for Chelsea in their 2-0 FA Cup semi-final win over Luton Town in 1994, signed a 3½-year deal for an initial fee of £800,000, which will rise to £1 million after an agreed number of appearances.

"I had options to move abroad, to France or Spain, on a free transfer at the end of the season, but I'm glad that it has been finally sorted out with QPR," Peacock said. "It's like coming full circle. This is where I started and learnt my trade, and I feel very positive about our promotion chances.

"The management team of Stewart Houston and Bruce Rioch have worked at the highest level and want players who match their drive and ambition for the club.

"I felt it was time to move on. I had some great times at Chelsea and I like to think I had a good relationship with the fans, but now I am 100 per cent committed to QPR and I believe we have all the ingredients we need for success."

Ravanelli attacks Middlesbrough

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FABRIZIO RAVANELLI has added to the list of problems confronting Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, and fuelled speculation that he may leave Teesside in the new year with a wide-ranging attack on the club and English football.

Ravanelli, the Italy forward, said that training facilities and coaching in England lag behind those in his home country and that he still relies on coaches at Juventus, his former club, for training programmes.

Ravanelli's comments — made on Italian television — will add to the difficulties of Robson, who is struggling to field a team for the Boxing Day fixture against Everton at the Riverside Stadium.

Middlesbrough reported back for training yesterday after the postponement of the game against Blackburn Rovers on Saturday when more than 20 players were unavailable because of illness and injury.

Robson has been trying to assess how many players will be available for selection and has still not ruled out making a comeback himself, although he has not played for a year.

Ravanelli's attack will hardly help to restore dressing-room morale after a run of 12 FA Carling Premiership games without a win and the saga of Emerson's absences from the club.

Ravanelli said: "Here [in Italy] there is a different culture and a different mentality. The English have tons of money, but they lack the organisation of Italian soccer."

Ravenelli, 28, has scored 16 goals since his £7.5 million signing from Juventus in the summer. "The training facilities are not adequate; the stadiums are nice but the rest is just not there," he said. "For example, there are no gyms and you don't practise very much. I am forced to train by myself, using charts that the Juve trainer faxes to me.

"English players have a natural gift for running, but, as for explosiveness and reaction time, they can't match the Italians. In soccer, you have to do more than run."

Ravanelli has been linked with a move to Manchester United and admitted that he had been alarmed by the slump in Middlesbrough's fortunes. "We are in a difficult situation and one I did not expect," he said. "Before signing with Middlesbrough, promises were made to me and they have not been kept. Now we have to regroup and I have to bring the mentality I learnt at Juve. We have to find a way out of this difficult situation."

Robson is keen to strengthen his defence and Bobby Robson, the Barcelona manager, confirmed yesterday that Middlesbrough have increased their offer for Miguel Angel Nadal.

Sunderland are close to completing the signing of Mamado Diallo, the Senegalese winger, for £700,000. Diallo, 24, who plays for Zeytinburnum, in Turkey, impressed Peter Reid, the manager, during a trial at Roker Park.

BOXING DAY FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.00 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*
pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership
(1) Aston Villa v Chelsea
(2) Blackburn v Newcastle
(3) Leeds v Coventry
(4) Liverpool v Leicester
(5) Middlesbrough v Everton
(6) Nottingham Forest v Man Utd
(-) Sheff Wed v Arsenal (5.45)
(7) Sunderland v Derby
(8) Tottenham v Southampton (noon)
(9) Wimbledon v West Ham (noon)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	18	11	4	3	35	17	37
Arsenal	18	10	5	3	35	18	35
Wimbledon	18	10	4	4	30	22	34
A Villa	18	10	3	5	27	15	33
Man Utd	18	8	7	3	37	25	31
Newcastle	17	9	3	5	27	19	30
Everton	18	7	7	4	26	20	28
Chelsea	19	7	7	4	28	27	28
Sheff Wed	18	6	8	4	19	20	26
Tottenham	18	7	4	7	18	18	25
Derby	18	5	7	6	20	23	22
Leeds	18	6	4	8	15	20	22
Leicester	18	6	3	9	17	24	21
Sunderland	18	5	5	8	17	26	20
West Ham	18	4	6	8	16	25	18
Southampton	18	4	4	10	27	33	16
Coventry	18	3	7	8	14	24	16
Middlesbro	18	3	6	9	21	33	15
Blackburn	17	2	7	8	16	22	13
Nottm F	18	2	7	9	16	30	13

(not including last night's match)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Bamber Bridge; Atherton v Leek; Blyth Spartans v Guiseley; Colwyn Bay v Knowsley; Emley v Frickley; Gainsborough v Boston; Hyde v Droylsden; Lancaster v Barrow; Marine v Chorley; Spennymoor v Bishop Auckland; Witton v Winsford. **First division:** Ashton United v Congleton; Atherton LR v Netherfield; Curzon Ashton v Radcliffe; Farsley Celtic v Stocksbridge PS (12.0); Flixton v Droylsden (11.0); Grantham v Bradford Pk Ave; (11.0); Harrogate Town v Bradford PA; Leigh v Workington; Lincoln United v Worksop (11.30); Matlock Town v Eastwood Town; Warrington v Great Harwood

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Shildon v West Auckland; Whitby v Guisborough

Nationwide League
First division
(10) Bradford v Sheff Utd
(11) Grimsby v Bolton
(12) Ipswich v Crystal Palace
(13) Man City v Port Vale
(14) Oldham v Birmingham (1.0)
(15) * Portsmouth v Swindon
(16) QPR v Norwich (noon)
(17) Reading v West Bromwich
(18) Southend v Charlton (noon)
(19) Stoke v Barnsley
(20) Tranmere v Huddersfield
(21) Wolverhampton v Oxford Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barnsley	23	12	8	3	42	26	44
Bolton	24	11	10	3	48	34	43
Sheff Utd	24	12	6	6	40	26	42
C Palace	24	10	9	5	48	24	39
Wolvrhmptn	23	10	8	7	31	22	38
Oxford Utd	24	9	7	8	34	25	34
QPR	24	9	7	8	31	29	34
Stoke	22	9	7	6	30	31	34
Port Vale	24	8	10	6	28	24	34
Norwich	23	9	6	8	30	33	33
Birmingham	23	8	9	6	24	22	33
Tranmere	24	9	5	10	31	31	32
Swindon	24	9	3	12	34	32	30
Ipswich	24	7	9	8	30	34	30
Portsmth	24	8	6	10	28	30	30
West Brom	23	6	11	6	36	37	29
Charlton	23	9	2	12	24	33	29
Huddersfld	24	7	7	10	27	33	28
Reading	24	7	7	10	25	33	28
Man City	23	8	2	13	27	37	26
Oldham	24	6	8	10	26	29	26
Southend	24	5	10	9	24	41	25
Bradford	24	5	9	11	22	38	23
Grimsby	23	5	7	11	25	42	22

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Cemaes Bay; Barry v Inter Cable-Tel (11.30); Carmarthen Town v Briton Ferry; Connah's Quay v Llansantffraid; Ebbw Vale v Cwmbran, Flint Town v Holywell (1.0); Newtown v Caersws, Porthmadog v Caernarfon; Rhyl v Conwy; Welshpool v Aberystwyth.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon U v Bowers; Hullbridge Sports v Concord; Sawbridgeworth v Stansted; Southend Manor v Great Wakering.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Cray (11.30); Chatham v Crockenhill; Faversham v Deal (11.0); Furness v Lordswood (12.0); Ramsgate v Folkestone Invicta (11.0).

Second division
(22) * Blackpool v Burnley
(23) Bournemouth v Bristol Rovers (noon)
(24) Bristol City v Shrewsbury (noon)
(25) Bury v Crewe
(26) Chesterfield v Rotherham (noon)
(27) Gillingham v Luton (noon)
(28) Millwall v Peterborough (noon)
(29) Plymouth v Brentford
(30) Watford v Notts County (noon)
(31) Wrexham v Stockport
(32) Wycombe v Walsall
(33) York v Preston

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	24	12	8	4	37	24	44
Luton	23	13	4	6	41	26	43
Bury	23	11	8	4	35	22	41
Millwall	24	11	8	5	33	24	41
Wrexham	22	10	8	4	29	24	38
Stockport	24	10	8	6	29	26	38
Watford	23	9	11	3	26	19	38
Chesterfld	23	11	5	7	23	18	38
Burnley	24	11	4	9	33	27	37
Crewe	23	12	1	10	32	27	37
Bristol City	23	9	7	7	38	26	34
Shrewsbury	24	7	8	9	30	37	29
Bristol R	24	7	8	9	26	28	29
Preston	24	8	5	11	24	27	29
York	23	8	5	10	24	32	29
Blackpool	24	6	10	8	25	27	28
Plymouth	24	6	9	9	28	34	27
Walsall	23	7	6	10	24	28	27
Gillingham	24	7	6	11	23	27	27
Bournemth	24	7	6	11	22	29	27
Peterboro	24	5	9	10	35	43	24
Wycombe	24	6	5	13	22	36	23
Notts Co	23	5	6	12	15	26	21
Rotherham	23	3	7	13	19	35	16

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm v Mangotsfield; Backwell v Bridlington; Barnstaple v Bideford, Bridport v Bridgwater; Calne v Chippenham; Westbury v Odd Down, Tiverton v Elmore

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town v Diss (12.0); Felixstowe P and T v Woodbridge (11.0). Gorleston v Great Yarmouth (11.0), Hadleigh U v Stowmarket (11.0); Halstead v Tiptree (11.0); Harwich and Parkeston v Clacton (11.0); Soham v Newmarket (11.0); Sudbury Wanderers v Sudbury Town Res (11.0); Walton v Fakenham (11.0); Wisbech v March (11.0); Wroxham v Lowestoft (11.0).

Third division
(34) Barnet v Mansfield (1.0)
(35) Brighton v Colchester (noon)
(36) Cambridge Utd v Scunthorpe
(37) Cardiff v Torquay
(38) Carlisle v Hartlepool
(39) Chester v Rochdale
(—) Doncaster v Scarborough
(—) Fulham v Exeter (noon)
(—) Hereford v Swansea
(—) Hull v Lincoln
(—) Leyton Orient v Northampton (noon)
(—) Wigan v Darlington

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	24	16	4	4	39	17	52
Carlisle	24	13	7	4	38	24	46
Cambs Utd	24	13	5	6	36	30	44
Wigan	23	12	5	6	40	26	41
Chester	23	10	6	7	27	25	36
Swansea	23	10	5	8	27	26	35
Scunthpe	24	10	4	10	34	34	34
Northmptn	24	9	7	8	33	27	34
Cardiff	22	10	4	8	26	24	34
Torquay	24	10	4	10	26	26	34
Colchester	24	7	12	5	35	29	33
Barnet	23	8	8	7	24	19	32
Hull	24	7	11	6	23	26	32
Lincoln	24	8	7	9	30	36	31
Scarboro	23	7	9	7	30	30	30
Rochdale	23	7	8	8	29	29	29
Hartlepool	23	8	4	11	28	30	28
Mansfield	23	6	10	7	24	24	28
L Orient	23	7	7	9	19	20	28
Exeter	24	7	5	12	33	34	26
Doncaster	23	7	3	13	25	36	24
Hereford	24	6	5	13	25	35	23
Darlington	24	6	4	14	33	44	22
Brighton	24	4	4	16	21	44	14

Vauxhall Conference
(—) Altrincham v Macclesfield
(—) Farnborough v Bath
(—) Gateshead v Stalybridge
(—) Halifax v Northwich
(—) Hayes v Woking
(—) Kettering v Rushden and Diamonds
(—) Kidderminster v Bromsgrove (11.30)
(—) Southport v Morecambe
(—) Stevenage v Slough
(—) Telford v Hednesford
(—) Welling v Dover (11.30)

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cradley Town v Gornal Res; Darlaston v Wolverhampton United; Ludlow T v Stourport S; Lye Town v Brierley Hill T; Tividale v Hill Top R; Walsall Wood v Blowich S; Westfields v Malvern T.

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
(40) Aberdeen v Celtic (7.45)
(41) Dundee Utd v Motherwell
(42) Dunfermline v Hearts
(43) Hibernian v Kilmarnock
(44) Rangers v Raith

First division
(45) East Fife v St Mirren (2.0)
(46) Greenock Morton v Clydebank
(47) Partick v Dundee
(48) St Johnstone v Falkirk

Second division
(49) Ayr v Hamilton
(—) Dumbarton v Stranraer

Third division
(—) Albion v Forfar
(—) Arbroath v Ross County

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Sittingbourne (11.0) Burton v Gresley (11.30); Gloucester v Cheltenham; Gravesend and Northfleet v Chelmsford (11.30); Halesowen v Worcester City, Hastings v Crawley, King's Lynn v Cambridge City; Merthyr v Newport AFC (12.0), Nuneaton v Atherstone (12.0); Salisbury v Dorchester, Sudbury v Baldock. **Midland division:** Bilston v Stourbridge, Grantham v Corby (11.30), Ilkeston v Hinckley Town; Rounds v Rothwell (11.30), Redditch v Evesham (12.0); Shepshed Dynamo v Tamworth (11.0); Solihull Borough v Moor Green (12.0); Stafford v Dudley Town, Sutton Coldfield v Paget Rangers (11.0). **VS Rugby** v Bedworth (12.0) **Southern division:** Bashley v Havant, Erith and Belvedere v Dartford (12.0); Fareham v Waterlooville, Forest Green v Cinderford; Margate v St Leonards; Tonbridge v Fisher; Trowbridge v Witney, Weston-super-Mare v Clevedon (11.30); Weymouth v Newport (IoW) (2.15). Yate v Cirencester (11.30).

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division (11.30): Coventry Sphinx v Massey Ferguson; Handrahan Timbers v Bilston Community College Highgate v Kings Heath; Knowle v Coleshill, Melr Ka v Bolehall S; Richmond Swifts v Shirley; Southam v Kenilworth, Studley BM v Alvechurch, Wellesbourne v Worcester, West Midland Fire Service v David Lloyd.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Hendon (11.0), Boreham Wood v Bishop's Stortford (12.30), Bromley v Dulwich (noon), Carshalton v Sutton United (noon); Dagenham and Red v Heybridge, Grays v Purfleet (11.0), Harlow v Enfield; Hitchin v St Albans (12.0), Kingstonian v Chertsey (11.0), Staines v Yeading (11.30), Yeovil v Oxford City. **First division:** Basingstoke v Aldershot Town, Berkhamsted v Barton Rovers; Canvey Island v Billericay, Croydon v Whyteleafe, Maidenhead United v Hampton, Marlow v Uxbridge; Molesey v Walton and Hersham, Thame v Abingdon Town; Wokingham v Chesham; Worthing v Bognor Regis **Second division:** Banstead v Horsham, Barking v Tilbury; Bedford T v Leighton Town, Bracknell v Hungerford, Chalfont St Peter v H Hempstead, Collier Row and Romford v Ware; Dorking v Leatherhead, Windsor and Eton v Egham, Wivenhoe v Witham. **Third division:** Aveley v Clapton, East Thurrock v Braintree, Hertford v Harlow; Lewes v Epsom and Ewell; Tring v Southall; Wealdstone v Northwood; Wingate and Finchley v Kingsbury

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers v Darwen Burscough v Boolle: Chadderton v Atherton Collieries Clitheroe v Rossendale, Eastwood H v Newcastle Town (1.0): Glossop North End v Salford; Kidsgrove v Nantwich (12.0), Penrith v Holker Old Boys (2.15). St Helens v Maine Road; Trafford v Mossley; Vauxhall G M v Prescot Cables

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Brockenhurst (11.30); Andover v Whitchurch (11.30); BAT v Totton (11.30), Bemerton Heath v Downton (12.0), Christchurch v Romsey (11.0): Eastleigh v Aerostructures (11.0). Portsmouth RN v Gosport (11.0); Ryde Sports v East Cowes, Thatcham v Petersfield; Wimborne Town v Bournemouth (11.30)

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Holbeach; Bourne v Spalding; Long Buckby v Ford Sports; M.Blackstone v Stamford; N.Spencer v Cogenhoe; Potton v Stotfold, St Neots v Eynesbury; S and L Corby v Desborough; Wellingborough v Newport Pagnell; Wootton v Kempston.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division (11.0): Arundel v Pagham; Eastbourne Town v Langney Sports; Hassocks v Burgess Hill; Horsham YMCA v Wick; Ringmer v Hailsham, Saltdean v Peacehaven and Telscombe, Selsey v Portfield, Southwick v Shoreham. Three Bridges v Oakwood, Whitehawk v Mile Oak.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE *(11.0):* Bloxwich Town v Pelsall V; Bridgnorth v Shifnal T, Chasetown v Boldmere St M; Hinckley Athletic v Barwell, Knypersley V v Rocester; Oldbury U v Halesowen H; Pershore T v Stratford T, Rushall O v Blakenhall, Stapenhill v W Mid Police; Willenhall v Sandwell.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Cliftonville; Crusaders v Coleraine, Glenavon v Portadown, Linfield v Glentoran First division: Ballymena v Omagh, Carrick v Ballyclare; Larne v Distillery; Newry v Bangor

RUGBY UNION

Club matches
Bridgend v Moseley (2.30)
Hartlepool Rovers v West Hartlepool (2.15)
Hawick v Jed-Forest (2.0)
Kelso v Selkirk (2.0)
Melrose v Gala (2.0)
Newcastle v Northern (3.0)
Northampton v Stirling County (3.0)
Redruth v Camborne (2.30)
Stourbridge v Dudley Kingswinford (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Club matches
Batley v Dewsbury (noon)
Huddersfield v Keighley (1.0)
Leeds v Halifax (11.30)
Wigan v St Helens (3.0)

POSTPONED: Workington v Carlisle

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: *Superleague:* Basingstoke v Nottingham (3.0): Sheffield v Cardiff (2.30)

RACING: Ayr (12.25), Hereford (1.05), Huntingdon (12.30); Kempton Park (12.40), Market Rasen (12.30), Newton Abbot (1.25), Sedgefield (12.40); Wetherby (12.45); Wincanton (12.45), Wolverhampton (1.0), Lingfield Park (12.50).

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مكتبة الإسكندرية

RADIO 1

7.00am Dave Pearce **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson **3.00** Clive Warren's Christmas Eve special **5.30** Newsbeat **5.45** Clive Warren **7.00** Mary Anne Hobbs **10.00** Christmas According to the Gospel, featuring Gabrielle and Nenah Cherry **11.00** Cameron Daniec **1.00am** Claire Sturgess **4.00** Clive Warren, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Christmas with Elvis **1.00pm** Christmas Comedy Classics **1.30** Steve Wright **3.30** Dame Edna's Aural Experience **4.30** Mike Yarwood **5.05** Two Nuts and a Tangerine **6.00** Alter Ego **7.00** Lew Grade **8.30** Kaiso! **9.00** The Night Before Christmas **10.00** The Sexton Christmas Tale **10.30** Vintage Christmas: A Christmas Carol **11.00** Carols by Candlelight **12.05am** Patrick Lunt **3.00** Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at **5.45** Wake up to Money **6.00** Sisters Are Doing It for Themselves **6.35** My Kind of Road **7.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.05** The Magazine **11.05** Never Walk Alone (2/5) **11.35** The Food of Love and Hate (2/4) **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.05pm** Ruscoe on Five, includes Entertainment News **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** The Matador from Manchester **8.05** Football Forever **9.05** Cinderella Man **10.05** Brel Lives 96 **11.05** Weather Reports **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Phillip Hodson **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Sports Zone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT** News on the hour **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** New Ideas **7.50** Musical Copenhagen **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Stories by W W Jacobs **8.45** Good Books **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Quote Unquote **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian Feature **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Print the Legend **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** Multitrack Sessions **3.30** Heritage **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.30** Print the Legend **7.01** Outlook **7.30** Megamix **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Feature **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.10** Voicebox **11.15** Multitrack Sessions **11.30** Megamix **12.30am** Folk Routes **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Composer of the Month **3.15** Sport **3.30** Meridian **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto Marc-Antoine Charpentier (Noels pour les instruments); Sammartini (Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op 5, No 6, Christmas Concerto) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Classic Voices of Our Time **8.00** Evening Concert Britten (A Ceremony of Carols, Op 28, Rejoice in the Lamb, Op 30), Vivaldi (Concerto in E, RV270, Il Riposo, per il Santissimo Natale) **10.00** Midnight Carols with Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Jeremy Clark **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Lynn Parsons **4.00** Mitch Johnson **7.00** Paul Coyte **(FM)** / Robin Banks **(AM)** **10.00** Howard Pearce **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

From left: Toni Braxton sings on the Tom Jones show (ITV, 8.30pm); *Famous Fred* sings at home (C4, 6.10pm); Cleavon Little, Gene Wilder in *Blazing Saddles* (BBC2, 10pm)

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. *Includes* Charpentier (Noels sur les instruments); Schmidt (Symphony No 4), Byrd (Lullaby my Sweet Little Baby); Daquin (Noels III and IV, Nouveau Livre de Noels); Elgar (String Quartet in E minor, Mistry Quartet) **8.50** An Advent Calendar
9.00 Morning Collection. Includes Mozart (Flute Quartet in A, K298); Mendelssohn (Six Songs without Words, Op 67, Bk 6), Sibelius (The Swan of Tuonela, Legends)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Victoria (Kyrie (Officium Defunctorum); Weber (Grand Duo Concertant, Op 48);
12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky
1.00pm News; the BBC Orchestras. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vanska. With Boris Berezovsky, piano. Mussorgsky, arr Rimsky-Korsakov (A Night on a Bare Mountain); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor)
2.30 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces a recital by pianist Leon McCawley, a prizewinner at the 1993 Leeds Piano Competition. Fauré (Pièces Breves, Op 84); Barber (Nocturne. Homage to John Field; Sonata)
3.15 Opera Gala. Bryn Terfel, baritone, Rockwell Blake, tenor, the London Symphony Chorus and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Grant Llewellyn
5.00 Music Machine
5.15 The Life and Times of the Symphony. John Eliot Gardiner and Brian Newbould explore the links between Beethoven and Schubert (2/5)
6.45 Digital Masters. Includes Chopin (Waltz in E flat, Op 18, Grand Valse Brillante); Arensky (Suite No 1 in F, Op 15, Waltz), Ignaz Friedman (Viennese Dance No 1 on Themes of Gartner)
7.30 Handel's Messiah. Recorded at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. Yvonne Kenny, soprano, Jean Rigby, mezzo, Neil Archer, tenor, Huddersfield Choral Society, BBC Philharmonic under Roy Goodman
10.00 By Woody Allen (2/5)
10.25 Angelic Variations. Settings for organ and lute by Pachelbel, Böhm and Bach
10.45 The Shellac Show. Includes works by Verdi, Offenbach and Schubert (1/6)
11.30 Composers of the Week: Chausson and Duparc (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes
1.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Call Nick Ross
10.00 Something to Write Home About (FM). Sean Foley and Hamish McColl take their vaudeville show *Stop Calling Me Vernon* to India, where they sample the delights of Bollywood (3/4)
10.00 Daily Service (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour
11.30 Medicine Now
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Random Edition. Peter Snow introduces stories from February 17, 1743 **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping
2.00 News; Thirty Minute Theatre: Baboushka, by Nick Warburton. With Michael Maloney (r)
2.30 Personal Records. Jeremy Nicholas rifles through the record collection of Dame Antoinette Sibley
3.00 A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, from King's College, Cambridge (r)
4.00 Shelf Lives Christmas Special: The Christmas Tree. Nigel Cassidy investigates the Christmas tree industry
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping **5.56** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 A Little of What You Fancy, by H E Bates. With David Jason and Pam Ferris as Pop and Ma Larkin (5/6) (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 A Memory Lost. Simon Rae profiles the 19th-century poet John Clare. His first collection was a best-seller, but when his physical and mental health collapsed he was committed to an asylum where he ended his life in obscurity in 1864 (r)
8.00 Ad Lib. Robert Robinson talks to the match-makers who offer their clients a head-start in the mating game (r)
8.30 Offspring Christmas Special. John Peel introduces a selection of confessions about family live over the festive period
9.00 Journeys to Imaginary Places. Frank Delaney goes in search of the locations depicted by Gustav Flaubert (r)
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. Robert Dawson Scott examines the emotional impact of musical tonality (r) **9.59** Weather
10.05 The Waltons: A Superior Soap. Dilly Barlow travels to Virginia and meets the family that inspired the series
10.45 Book at Bedtime: High Spirits (2/5)
11.00 Masterbrain
11.30 Midnight Mass
12.30am Late Book: Sir Henry at Rawlinson End (2/5)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

BBC 1

7.00am NEWS (T) regional news and weather (2679569) **7.10** Christmas Specials (5686892) **8.00** News (T) (5237908) **8.10** Barney (4797279) **8.15** The Bears Who Saved Christmas (7684521) **8.40** X-Men (9160618) **9.00** News (T) (3869960) **9.05** Incredible Games (4491076) **9.30** Blue Peter (T) (79873) **10.00** Playdays (2084927) **10.25** Enchanted Tales (8811502) **10.25** The Night Before Christmas (8811502) **11.15** The Making of Jurassic Park (T) (1095279)
12.00 JOY TO THE WORLD A celebration of the Christmas story from the Royal Albert Hall (92724)
1.00pm NEWS (T) and weather (99307724) **1.13 Regional News** (82813618)
1.15 NEIGHBOURS (T) (30908502)
1.40 FILM: Star Trek — The Motion Picture (1979) starring William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy and DeForest Kelley. The crew of the Enterprise set off into uncharted outer space to confront an unknown force field heading towards Earth — but as they approach and explore the entity, a startling discovery comes to light. Directed by Robert Wise (T) (48310927)
3.55 FILM: Super Mario Bros (1993) Bob Hoskins and John Leguizamo star in this fantasy based on the popular Nintendo video game. Directed by Rocky Morton and Annabel Jankel (T) (539724)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (r) (T) (458786)
6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (810163)
6.15 REGIONAL NEWS (815618)
6.30 THE BRITTAS EMPIRE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Gordon Brittas organises a team bonding exercise in the Welsh mountains (T) (845)
7.00 ALL THE BEST FOR CHRISTMAS Brian Conley introduces comic clips with a festive flavour. Featuring *The Likely Lads, Morecambe and Wise and Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em* (T) (6279)
8.00 A QUESTION OF SPORT A Christmas edition of the quiz, hosted by Sue Barker. Team captains Ally McCoist and John Parrott are joined by Ian Wright, Sally Gunnell, Stephen Hendry and Willie Carson (T) (4347)
8.30 EASTENDERS Will Carol be forced to break a promise? Robbie turns secret agent, and Joe makes an ill-judged decision to return to the Queen Vic (T) (6182)
9.00 FILM: Cliffhanger (1993) Sylvester Stallone plays a mountain rescuer who's chosen to retire following a dramatic loss of confidence but finds himself drawn into one last battle of wits with a psychopathic criminal searching for a $100 million fortune lost in the Rockies. Also starring John Lithgow. Directed by Renny Harlin (T) (35510705)
10.40 NEWS; regional news and weather (843569)
11.00 THE MRS MERTON CHRISTMAS SPECIAL The senior citizen chats to Noddy Holder and Irish singer Daniel O'Donnell (T) (9637)
11.30 CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS Live broadcast from Westminster Cathedral led by Cardinal Basil Hume (978095)
12.50am FILM: The Birds (1963) starring Tippi Hedren, Rod Taylor and Suzanne Pleshette. Classic Alfred Hitchcock thriller about a Californian coastal community besieged by a mysterious series of vicious attacks from rogue birds (969187)
2.45 WEATHER (8739274)

BBC 2

7.20am FILM: Christmas in Connecticut (b/w, 1945) Comedy starring Barbara Stanwyck. A columnist renowned for being the efficient housewife has to conjure up a family or face exposure. Directed by Peter Godfrey (73757095)
8.45 FILM: For Me and My Gal (b/w, 1942) with Judy Garland and Gene Kelly. Musical set on Broadway during the First World War. Directed by Busby Berkeley (T) (56521)
10.25 FILM: King of the Khyber Rifles (1953) starring Tyrone Power as a half-caste officer assigned to crush a tribal uprising in India. Directed by Henry King (T) (49264076)
12.00 FILM: Ferngully — The Last Rainforest (1992) Animated musical fantasy about a fairy who falls in love with a lumberjack. Directed by Bill Kroyer (T) (7000724)
1.15pm ASSIGNMENT John Simpson, the BBC's foreign affairs editor, reveals how he covered the Russian elections in June and the latest conflict in Afghanistan (9364250)
2.05 YEHUDI MENUHIN — 80TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT Sir David Attenborough introduces a gala birthday tribute to the violinist from the Albert Hall (88370892)
4.15 AFFAIRS TO REMEMBER Viewers relate their romantic encounters and cinematic romance (352927)
4.45 CAROLS FROM KING'S A celebration of Christmas from King's College Chapel, Cambridge (T) (8051502)
6.00 FILM: Meet Me in St Louis (1944) with Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien and Mary Astor. Musical saga following the romantic entanglements of the Smith family in turn-of-the-century Missouri. Directed by Vincente Minnelli (T) (450705)
7.50 BEING THERE Documentary capturing the dramatic changes to the continent of Antarctica from the extreme cold of winter to the brief summer (T) (890750)
8.20 GOGS Animated saga about a stone-age family (T) (846453)
8.30 AN AUDIENCE WITH CHARLES DICKENS: A Christmas Carol In the first of two readings, Simon Callow reads passages about Ebenezer Scrooge being confronted by the ghost of Christmas Past. The second reading can be seen tomorrow (T) (521)
9.00 ARENA: Caesar's Writers Gene Wilder introduces the recent reuniting of Sid Caesar, Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner and Neil Simon, before an audience in Los Angeles, of one of America's first great writing teams (T) (3128076)
10.00 FILM: Blazing Saddles (1974) Mel Brooks's outrageous Western spoof with Cleavon Little and Gene Wilder. A black sheriff and an alcoholic ex-gunfighter join forces to foil scheming and corrupt businessman Hedley Lamarr. Directed by Mel Brooks (T) (96724)
11.30 FILM: Manhattan Murder Mystery (1993) Comedy directed, starring and co-written by Woody Allen, with Diane Keaton. A middle-aged woman begins to suspect her seemingly harmless neighbour has murdered his wife and talks her apathetic husband into investigating the crime with her (761873)
1.15am FILM: The Producers (1967) with Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder. Comedy about a pair of conmen who produce the world's worst musical about Hitler and the rise of Nazisim. Directed by Mel Brooks
2.55 WEATHER (7234908)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (7561637)
9.25 CAPTAIN SIMIAN AND THE SPACE MONKEYS (4406908)
9.50 HOLLYWOOD'S GREATEST STUNTS (2537255)
10.50 NEWS (7497076)
10.55 REGIONAL NEWS (7496347)
11.00 FILM: Batman — Mask of the Phantasm (1993) Animated adventures with the caped crusader (T) (2136873)
12.25pm REGIONAL NEWS (5323732)
12.35 NEWS (T) and weather (9386453)
1.00 CORONATION STREET (r) (T) (80076)
1.30 FILM: The Last Starfighter (1984) with Lance Guest, Robert Preston, Dan O'Herlihy and Catherine Mary Stewart. A boy decides to shun his friends' plans for a night out in favour of staying at home to play his favourite video game. Directed by Nick Castle (T) (53644705)
3.20 NEWS (7785892)
3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (7784163)
3.30 FILM: Protocol (1984) Goldie Hawn plays a scatter-brained cocktail waitress offered an important government job after inadvertently saving a Middle Eastern leader's life. Directed by Herbert Ross (T) (115971)
5.10 WHEEL OF FORTUNE (T) (7941705)
5.40 NEWS (T) and weather (907637)
6.00 THE MAKING OF STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT (447231)
6.25 HTV NEWS (T) (948347)
7.00 EMMERDALE AT CHRISTMAS A calamity at Home Farm leaves Kim's dreams in tatters (T) (1347)
8.00 THE BILL The Assistant Commissioner dampens everyone's spirits by banning alcohol in the station over Christmas — so CID come up with a plan to sidestep his Scrooge-like announcement (T) (9415)
8.30 FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY — TOM JONES A television special in which the singer performs songs from a career spanning four decades. With special guests Mark Knopfler, Toni Braxton and Bryn Terfel (T) (43237)
9.30 NEWS (T) and weather (719521)
9.45 FILM: Top Gun (1986) Arrogant fighter pilot Tom Cruise's maverick flying skills earn him a place in an elite US Navy squadron, where he fights with fellow students and falls for tutor Kelly McGillis. Also starring Val Kilmer, Anthony Edwards, Tom Skerritt and Meg Ryan. Directed by Tony Scott (T) (605124)
11.45 GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY Gloria Hunniford introduces Midnight Communion from Hinde Street Methodist Church in central London (664434)
12.45am FILM: Maid to Order (1987) Comedy starring Ally Sheedy, Beverly D'Angelo and Michael Ontkean. Modern fairy tale about a rich girl being forced to support herself by working as a maid. Directed by Amy Jones (213670)
2.20 FILM: The Satan Bug (1965) starring George Maharis, Richard Basehart and Ann Francis. A former Army Intelligence officer is called in to investigate the murder of a scientist and the disappearance of his assistant, working on lethal germ warfare. Directed by John Sturges (65535458)
4.35 FILM: A CHRISTMAS CAROL Animated version of Dickens' classic tale (7575309)
5.55 NEWS (1340293)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
1.00pm-1.30 MAKE 'EM LAUGH (80076)
5.10 SHORTLAND STREET (7941705)
6.00 WHEEL OF FORTUNE (811)
6.30-7.00 CENTRAL NEWS (163)
9.44-9.45 LOCAL WEATHER (516521)
12.45am PAVAROTTI IN MODENA 1996 (581390)
1.45 Film: BITE THE BULLET (92704458)
4.10 BUSHELL ON THE BOX (47126212)
4.40 Film: A CHRISTMAS CAROL (9427380)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
1.00pm-1.30 EMMERDALE (80076)
6.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (83076)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
1.00-1.30 PONGO'S TAIL: THE MAKING OF 101 DALMATIANS (80076)
6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (811)
6.30-7.00 MERIDIAN'S CHRISTMAS CRACKERS! (163)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.24 ANGLIA AIR WATCH (4973291)
1.00-1.30 CELEBRITY SQUARES (80076)
5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7941705)
6.00 WHEEL OF FORTUNE (811)
6.30-7.00 ANGLIA WEATHER AND NEWS (163)

S4C

Starts: 6.35am WISH KID (8634434)
7.00 THE GREATEST TUNE ON EARTH (89347)
7.30 THE BABYSITTERS CLUB (91182)
8.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (61453)
10.00 SAVED BY THE BELL (49294453)
11.35 THE PINK PANTHER (8800714)
12.00pm JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPION (85434)
1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN (88618)
1.30 THE SNOWMAN (28958)
2.00 Film: LUST FOR LIFE (82188637)
4.20 FRESH POP (2607569)
4.30 TV DINNERS (960)
5.00 5 PUMP (5368)
6.00 NEWYDDION (346163)
6.05 HENO (465637)
6.35 SION A SIAN (614076)
7.00 GWYL Y BABAN (516057)
7.45 BRODYR BACH (322786)
8.15 NEWYDDION (302434)
8.30 DILYN Y GOLAU (43219)
9.30 BROOKSIDE (86163)
10.00 Film: TOYS (61634415)
12.20am THE REAL CHRISTMAS SHOW (4380699)

VideoPlus+ and Video PlusCodes

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CHANNEL 4

6.35am WISH KID (r) (8634434)
7.00 THE GREATEST TUNE ON EARTH (2/4) (89347)
7.30 THE BABYSITTERS CLUB (r) (91182)
8.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST Madonna talks to Vanessa Feltz about babies, boobs, shopping and sex. Continues tomorrow (61453)
10.00 SAVED BY THE BELL (86164502)
11.40 BACK TO THE FUTURE (r) (1050237)
12.05pm THE PINK PANTHER (2594340)
12.30 GOD IN THE HOUSE: The Mix First of new six-part series about Christian raves (T) (78417)
1.00 BLESS THIS HOUSE (88618)
1.30 COPING WITH CHRISTMAS (r) (28958)
2.00 THE ADVENTURES OF TOAD Animation based on Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*. Featuring the voices of Peter Davison, Hugh Laurie, Richard Briers and the late Paul Eddington (T) (72569)
3.00 FILM: Dr Dolittle (1967) Musical starring Rex Harrison, Anthony Newley and Portia Nelson. Dr Dolittle abandons his surgery for humans and turns his attentions to the animal population where he learns to communicate with them. Directed by Richard Fleischer (57573960)
5.40 FATHER CHRISTMAS Animation based on Raymond Briggs's book (r) (T) (7482892)
6.10 FAMOUS FRED Animation of Posy Simmonds's story about a moggy who by day behaves like any other cat, but come nightfall is transformed into a superstar. With the voices of Lenny Henry and Tom Courtenay (T) (941434)
6.45 FILM: Drop Dead Fred (1991) starring Phoebe Cates and Rik Mayall. A woman's anarchic childhood imaginary friend comes back into her adult life and causes chaos as he attempts to help her sort out the problems caused by her philandering husband. Directed by Ate de Jong (32480415)
8.30 BROOKSIDE (T) (9892)
9.00 THE REAL CHRISTMAS SHOW Gaby Roslin shows seven very different ways of celebrating Christmas (T) (8873)
10.00 FATHER TED CHRISTMAS SPECIAL All Father Ted wants for Christmas is a nice quiet, peaceful time. Of course, there is absolutely no chance of this happening. His problems begin when he, Dougal and some clerical friends go on a shopping trip and get lost in the lingerie department of a large store (T) (3686273)
11.10 WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY? Highlights (T) (195960)
11.40 FILM: The Lady in White (1988) Supernatural chiller with Luke Haas. A young boy's life is placed in danger after he encounters the ghost of a girl murdered by an unknown killer. Directed by Frank Laloggia (T) (31778366)
1.45am FILM: The Innocents (1961, b/w) With Deborah Kerr. Thriller based on Henry James's *Turn of the Screw* about a governess believing that her angelic-looking charges are possessed by the evil spirits of two dead lovers. Directed by Jack Clayton (T) (561800)
3.35 FILM: Rouge (1987) starring Anita Mui as a courtesan who returns as a spectre. Directed by Stanley Kwan. Subtitles (644854)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

7.00am Love Connection (4047347) **7.20** Press Your Luck (4050811) **7.40** Jeopardy! (3277231) **8.10** Hotel (5639328) **9.00** Another World (3305601) **9.45** Oprah Winfrey (7972453) **10.40** Real TV (4802366) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9434366) **12.00** Geraldo (38540) **1.00pm** The Boy in the Bush (83981) **3.00** Jenny Jones (51927) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (30434) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (7106) **6.00** The Simpsons (7705) **6.30** The Simpsons (8057) **7.00** The Simpsons (1415) **7.30** Supermodels (7569) **8.00** Oprah Winfrey Exclusive Interview with Madonna (51415) **9.00** The X Files: The Movie (54502) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (18873) **12.00** LAPD (86748) **12.30am** Real TV (62670) **1.00** Hit Mix (93729)

SKY 2

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1020366) **8.00** Sliders (1006786) **9.00** Renegade (1019250) **10.00** New York Undercover (1029637) **11.00** Late Show, with David Letterman (1437960) **12.00** **FILM: Housekeeping** (2846106) **2.00am** Hit Mix Long Play (5185090)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The In-Crowd (1988) (89618) **8.00 Radioland Murders (1994)** (16927) **10.00 Dad, the Angel and Me (1995)** (20521) **12.00 The Mask (1994)** (99250) **2.00pm The Nativity (1978)** (65618) **4.00 I Love Trouble (1994)** (29193298) **6.10 The Little Rascals (1994)** (34727328) **8.00 The Mask (1994)** (60927) **10.00 True Lies (1994)** (22714647) **12.20am The Brady Bunch Movie (1995)** (8055125) **1.50 Dead Air (1994)** (2465303) **3.20 PCU (1994)** (7631800) **4.40 The Little Rascals (1994)** (44253293)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Scarlet Flower (1991) (96279) **7.30 Ben-Hur (1988)** (99366) **8.30 Carnival in Costa Rica (1947)** (96875415) **10.15 Silence of Adultery (1995)** (21985328) **12.00 Blank Cheque (1994)** (97392) **2.00pm Lily in Winter (1994)** (56960) **4.00 Rascal Dazzle (1981)** (6960) **6.00 Matilda** (6665) **6.30 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (1994)** (91705) **8.00 Mixed Nuts (1994)** (28569) **10.00 Dangerous Indiscretion (1994)** (5014250) **11.25 Hostile Hostages (1994)** (194128) **1.05am Above Suspicion (1994)** (827458) **2.40 A Business Affair (1993)** (979137) **4.20 Blank Cheque (1994)** (85857496)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Secret of Nimh (1982) (54835057) **5.25 The Bible (1966)** (81183095) **8.10 Santa Claus: The Movie (1984)** (64979138) **10.00 The Secret of My Success (1987)** (7171540) **11.55 Coming to America (1988)** (2857540) **1.55am How to Steal a Million (1966)** (53357380) **4.00-5.50 Santa Claus: The Movie (1984)** (5525380)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Muppet Babies (4793637) **6.25** Sing Me a Story, with Belle (4772144) **6.50** Big Garage (1961786) **7.00 FILM: The Ugly Duckling's Christmas Wish** (3213873) **8.10** Bonkers (9421144) **8.35** Goof Troop (8737144) **9.00** Aladdin (5372786) **9.25** Timon and Pumbaa (3199163) **10.10** Darkwing Duck (8865809) **10.35** Bonkers (1228279) **11.10** Quack Attack (9195250) **11.25** Mickey's Prince and the Pauper (9044415) **11.50** Goof Troop (9108540) **12.15pm** Aladdin (3525811) **12.40** Enchanted Tales: Christmas Elves (2606811) **1.30 FILM: The Christmas Box** (56502) **3.00** Mickey's Prince and the Pauper (7583076) **3.25** Bonkers (7595811) **3.50** Mouse Tracks (9652366) **4.15** Darkwing Duck (3228163) **4.40** Goof Troop (2082231) **5.05** Aladdin (7233989) **5.30** Timon and Pumbaa (7502) **6.00** Flash Forward (4415) **6.30 FILM: The Nightmare Before Christmas** (5487502) **7.45 FILM: The Canterville Ghost** (518076) **9.15** Timon and Pumbaa (373892) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (45989)
Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (35569) **7.30** Rebel Sports (64076) **8.00** Tartan Extra (63873) **8.30** Windsurfing World Tour (82144) **9.00** Sports Centre (86724) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (90415) **10.00** Spanish Football (10279) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (66960) **12.30pm** Monday Night Football (82502) **2.30** Watersports World (41827) **3.30** Boxing Special: Prince Naseem (84144) **4.59** Sports Centre (2662502) **5.00** WWF: Blast Off (2540) **6.00** Sports Centre (51750) **7.00** Prince Naseem (20415) **8.30** Futbol Mundial (8724) **9.00** Eric Cantona: The Perfect Story (14255) **10.00** Sports Centre (64732) **11.00** Boxing Special: Prince Naseem (35434) **12.30am** Futbol Mundial (82458) **1.00** Eric Cantona: The Perfect Story (87274) **2.00** Sports Unlimited (64496) **3.00-4.00** Sports Centre (45458)

SKY SPORTS 3

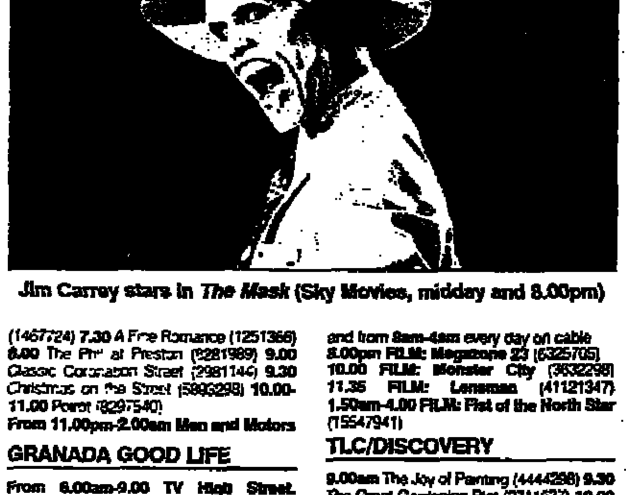
12.00 Sports Unlimited (43369873) **1.00pm** NBA Basketball (43378521) **2.00** NHL Ice Hockey (94089502) **3.00** NFL American Football (50203502) **5.00** World Professional Figure Skating (41815415) **6.00** Sports Unlimited (43365057) **7.00** Sports Centre Christmas Special (41740960) **8.00** NBA Basketball (41766908) **9.00** NHL Ice Hockey (41746144) **10.00-12.00** NFL American Football (10676502)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Golf (24076) **9.00** Speedworld (49279) **11.00** All Sports (87366) **11.30** Olympic Games (98095) **12.00** Football (51714) **1.00pm** All Sports (17182) **2.00** Triathlon (71637) **3.30** Funsports (1989) **4.00** Touring Car (78618) **5.00** All Sports (4958) **6.00** All Sports (4683) **6.30** Olympic Games (4453) **7.00** Football (14219) **8.00** Boxing (15637) **9.00** All Sports (67502) **9.30** Olympic Games (63083) **10.00** Football (98960) **11.00-12.30am** Trickshot (20502)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (5580347) **6.30** Sounds Like a Story (29157076) **6.45** Time for a Story (82664569) **7.00** Alphabet Zoo (7058144) **7.15** Sounds Like a Story (8053724) **7.30** The Ghosts of Motley Hall Christmas Special (1031521) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (1352892) **8.30** The Krypton Factor (1351163) **9.00** Families (1342415) **9.30** Crown Court (5879618) **10.00** World in Action (6855434) **10.30** Glamour Girls (1371927) **11.00** Coasting (1057569) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (1362279) **12.30pm** A Fine Romance (5873434) **1.00** Crown Court (1028057) **1.30** Families (5872705) **2.00** Bust (6856163) **3.00** Glamour Girls (1442415) **3.30** Pop Goes Christmas (1242618) **4.00** Poirot (2985960) **5.00** The Return of the Antelope (1466095) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (1231502) **6.30** Families (1255182) **7.00** The Grumbleweeds (1467724) **7.30** A Fine Romance (1251366) **8.00** The Phil at Preston (8281989) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (2981144) **9.30** Christmas on the Street (5893298) **10.00-11.00** Poirot (8297540)
From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors



Jim Carrey stars in *The Mask* (Sky Movies, midday and 8.00pm)

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features and Your Stars presented by Russell Grant
From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith
From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty. Includes Diet and Fitness with Rosemary Conley
From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden. Includes The Good Life Style Guide

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Charles Dickins (2649182) **5.00** Jerusalem (1305811) **6.00** The World at War (4885366) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Natalie Wood (6345569)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from **8pm-4am** Monday to Wednesday and **1am-4am** Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from **8am-4am** every day on cable **8.00pm FILM: Megazone 23** (6325705) **10.00 FILM: Monster City** (3632298) **11.35 FILM: Lensman** (41121347) **1.50am-4.00 FILM: Fist of the North Star** (15547941)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (4444298) **9.30** The Great Gardening Plot (2711637) **10.00** Go Fishing (9099705) **10.30** Hometime (4433182) **11.00** The Restoration Game (1115873) **11.30** Craftwise (1116502) **12.00** Two's Country Cooking (4424434) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2715453) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1755231) **1.30** Home Again, with Bob Vila (2714724) **2.00** Furniture to Go (7675076) **2.30** Grow Your Greens (8925908) **3.00** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (7687811) **3.30-4.00** This Old House, with Steve and Norm (8920453)
DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.
4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (8909960) **4.30** Roadshow (8905144) **5.00** Time Travellers (7686328) **5.30** Terra X (8929724) **6.00** Wild Things: Untamed Africa (2790144) **7.00** Next Step (7879892) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World (8906873) **8.00** Nature's Greatest Hits (1433250) **9.00** Flood (1420786) **10.00** Wonders of Weather (4425163) **10.30** Wonders of Weather (4434811) **11.00** Lightning (1772908) **12.00** Lotus Elise: Project M111 (8952922) **1.00am** The Extremists (5300767) **1.30-2.00** Special Forces (7760835)

UK GOLD

7.00am Going for Gold (2426163) **7.35** Crossroads (2120502) **8.00** Neighbours (9774182) **8.25** EastEnders (2122076) **9.00** The Bill (4413328) **9.30** Angels (8690163) **10.30** The Sullivans (4435540) **11.00** Rumpole of the Bailey (1753873) **12.00** Crossroads (40359989) **12.25pm** Neighbours (40352076) **12.55** EastEnders (1345873) **1.30** The Two Ronnies (9884434) **2.25** After the Show (28811095) **2.40** All Creatures Great and Small (65542873) **4.30** The Bill (8907502) **5.00** EastEnders (6839453) **5.35** Crossroads (8769502) **6.00** Bread (59914927) **7.25** Bob's Full House (8606328) **8.05** To the Manor Born (2450908) **8.40** Till Death Us Do Part (3404328) **9.30** The Bill (1620076) **10.05** Taggart **the FILM: Flesh and Blood** (91025163) **11.10** The Equalizer (5549076) **12.05am** The Best of Top of the Pops (2631496) **12.45 FILM: Gregory's Girl** (6081212) **2.20** Shopping at Night (15810800)

TCC

6.00am Tiny TCC (4775231) **6.20** Brum (4518453) **6.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (12250) **7.00** The Snow Postman (6073521) **7.45** Tiny and Crew Xmas Special (2895144) **8.00** The Story of Christmas (76837) **9.00** Art Attack (13892) **9.30** Meltdown: Take One (50811) **10.00** Saved by the Bell (36328) **11.00** Sweet Valley High (82188) **11.30** Hang Time (32647) **12.00** Heartbreak High (40434) **1.00pm** Blast: The TCC Chart Show (50908) **1.30** Meltdown: Oasis Concert (60298) **2.00** Sweet Valley High (16601) **3.00** California Dreams (32683) **4.00-5.00** Saved by the Bell (27908)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (58502) **6.30** Biker Mice from Mars (44724) **7.00** Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (76811) **7.30** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (62618) **8.00** Mighty Max (61415) **8.30** Hey Arnold (60786) **9.00** Rugrats (67250) **10.00** Real Monsters (35076) **10.30** Doug (73250) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life (83540) **11.30** Pete and Pete (91569) **12.00** The Secret World of Alex Mack (64502) **12.30pm** Ren and Stimpy (92873) **1.00** The Ferals (75182) **1.30** Space Cases (91144) **2.00** Clarissa Explains It All (7095) **2.30** Doug (2618) **3.00** Real Monsters (6502) **3.30** Stickin' Around (7163) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (6298) **4.30** Rugrats (5182) **5.00** Sister Sister (9322) **6.00** Moesha (3347) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (7927)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (1811) **7.30** Benson (6811) **8.00** Due South (11811) **9.00** Almost Perfect (70076) **9.30** Taxi (12637) **10.00** Entertainment UK (65231) **10.30** Girls on Top (61279) **11.00** Asylum (75521) **11.30** Nightstand (88927) **12.30am** Sledge Hammer! (46800) **1.00** Due South (85816) **2.00** Entertainment UK (13187) **2.30** Asylum (25922) **3.00** Girls on Top (59309) **3.30-4.00** Almost Perfect (16274)

BRAVO

12.00 Fantasy Island (2798786) **1.00pm** Remington Steele (2707434) **2.00** Sapphire and Steel (9087960) **3.00** Fantasy Island (1114144) **4.00 FILM: Invitation to a Gunfighter** (1964) (7685453) **6.00** Thunderbirds (2727298) **7.00** The Champions (1428328) **8.00** Starsky and Hutch (1437076) **9.00** Crime Story: Pursuit (1440540) **10.00-12.00 FILM: Satan's Grotto — Horror Express** (1972) (1113415)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (1037095) **7.00** The Agony Experience (1664540) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (3043618) **8.20** Gourmet Ireland (1922144) **8.55** Turnabout (8227250) **9.35** Trivial Pursuit (5955714) **10.00** Entertainment Now! (8296705) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (1797927) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (1302618) **11.55** Brookside (22027453) **12.25pm** Call the Doctor (40813724) **12.50** Gabrielle (2497873) **1.40** Rolonda (9054786) **2.30** The Agony Experience (2938182) **3.00** Charlie's Angels (5970250) **4.00** Who's Sorry Now? (2939434) **4.30** Talkabout (2186453) **5.05** Lingo (45365960) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2949298) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (2939811) **6.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (8888863) **7.05** Brookside (4855231) **7.35** Trivial Pursuit (4496076) **8.00** General Practise (3758434) **9.00** Opryland's Country Christmas (3778298) **10.00** The Heart of Christmas (1841618) **10.30** Infatuation UK (1860366) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files II (1840960)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (4163) **5.30** Treasure Hunt (68038) **6.30** Catchphrase (1569) **7.00** The Pyramid Game (4927) **7.30** Hart to Hart (47453) **8.30** Evening Shade (2182) **9.00** Bergerac (34786) **11.00** Bagdad Cafe (28637) **11.30** FM (66108) **12.00** Lou Grant (63922) **1.00am** Bergerac (21632) **2.00** Hart to Hart (55534) **3.00** Lou Grant (89816) **4.00** All Together Now (73583) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (74632)

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran (74101502) **7.30** Life Style East (90583569) **8.30** Indian Business Report (39997298) **9.00** Tamil Serial: En Uyir Revathe (39971250) **9.30** Urdu Serial: Nangey Peon (13563960) **10.30** Kurukshetra (39977434) **11.00** Khoobsurat (63931786) **11.30** Urdu Serial: Be Adap ba Mulaiza Hoshiar (27172989) **12.30pm** Nukkad (77329279) **1.00 FILM: Masoom** (61654298) **4.00** Film Deewane (34473569) **4.30** Aahae (34462453) **5.00** ZEE Zone (34334958) **5.30** Hum Zameen (34453705) **6.00** Dance Mania (34450618) **6.30** ZEE and You (34474298) **7.00** V3 (58734714) **7.30** Chalo Cinema (34483182) **8.00** News and Euronews (42439322) **8.30** Daraar (53784219) **9.00** Jaal (63944250) **9.30** Abhimaan (77309415) **10.00** Tara (60372298) **11.00-12.00** Sa Re Ga Ma

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as below.
9.00pm The Wizard of Oz (1939) (41767637) **11.00 A Christmas Carol (1938)** (41909076) **12.15am Wise Guys (1986)** (60456670) **1.55-5.00 The Wizard of Oz (1939)** (50985564)

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm Dance of the Century 2 (3754618) **8.00** Aria (8365811) **8.30** Puccini's La Boheme (7208417) **10.30** Tribute to Tom Jobim (7139883) **11.30** Aria (6499076) **12.00-1.00am** Summer Jazz (6568090)

From left: Judi Dench and Michael Williams (R4, 2pm); Alastair Miles in *Faust* (C4, 3.15pm); computer-animated dinosaurs in Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* (BBC1, 6.30pm)

BBC 1

6.00am JOE 90 (7373564) **6.25** Christmas Time! (7392699) **6.50** Playdays (2043187) **7.10** Fireman Sam (7143748) **7.35** Christmas Time! (5545903) **7.55** The Littlest Pet Shop (5556019) **8.20** Eek The Cat (7658106) **8.45** Sweet Valley High (9129361) **9.05** The Mask (1598293) **9.25** Santa Claus is Coming to Town (9553699) **10.20** On Christmas Day in the Morning (4062019)

11.20 FILM: The Wizard of Oz (1939) Classic musical fantasy starring Judy Garland as Dorothy, a youngster whisked over the rainbow *by a tornado into the magical land of* Oz. Directed by Victor Fleming and King Vidor (84515125)

1.00pm NEWS (T) (82884106)

1.05 TOP OF THE POPS (5655835)

2.10 KEEPING UP APPEARANCES Hyacinth decides to build a dream kitchen in time for Christmas (r) (T) (9906800)

3.00 THE QUEEN (T) (8636125)

3.10 NOEL'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTS With special guests the Prime Minister, President Clinton, Anthony Newley and Chris de Burgh (T) (2454449)

4.15 BRAMBLY HEDGE Enchanting animated tale about a family of fun-loving mice (T) 446767)

4.40 NEWS (T) and weather (4047545)

4.50 ANIMAL HOSPITAL GOES WEST Rolf Harris travels to America to meet animal stars of the big-screen (T) (1631038)

5.40 AUNTIE'S ALL-NEW CHRISTMAS *BLOOMERS* Terry Wogan presents another selection of out-takes from the BBC archives (535125)

6.30 FILM: Jurassic Park (1993) Steven Spielberg's dinosaur blockbuster with Sam Neill, Richard *Attenborough, Laura Dern and Jeff* Goldblum as scientists caught up in a nightmare weekend at a theme park where the main attractions go on the rampage (T) (94699)

8.30 EASTENDERS Tempers flare at the Mitchell dinner table (T) (8274)

9.00 ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES The first episode in a three-part story which concludes on Sunday. Del's application for a home improvement grant is rejected. With David Jason, Nicholas Lyndhurst and Buster Merryfieldstar (T) (6093)

10.00 THE VICAR OF DIBLEY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Dawn French as the woman of God who discovers the downside of Christmas goodwill when she *agrees to attend three separate* yuletide dinners (T) (706729)

10.45 NEWS (T) and weather (984380)

10.55 THE MORECAMBE AND WISE CHRISTMAS SHOW The 1970 edition, with Peter Cushing, William Franklyn, Edward Woodward and Eric Porter (r) (T) (5375361)

12.00 FILM: The Revenge of the Pink Panther (1978) Peter Sellers as the bumbling Inspector Clouseau, tracking down drug-smugglers. Also with Herbert Lom, Burt Kwouk and Dyan Cannon. Directed by Blake Edwards (T) (490591)

1.35am CHRISTMAS EPILOGUE The Nativity as seen through the eyes of modern-day Christians (8869626)

1.40 FILM: Please Sir! (1971) John Alderton as a teacher struggling to cope with disruptive inner-city pupils during a two-week stay at a country recreation centre. Also starring Joan Sanderson and Richard Davies. Directed by Mark Stuart (245959)

3.20 WEATHER *(41991775)*

[illegible]

6.45am FILM: The Barkleys of Broadway (1949, b/w) Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers teamed up to make for one last dance musical together about a showbiz couple splitting up. Directed by Charles Walters (79635125)

8.30 FILM: The Band Wagon (1953) starring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse. Musical about a film-star being persuaded to take a lead role in a new Broadway show. Directed by Vincente Minnelli (88313212)

10.20 THE SIMPSONS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Homer needs to earn some extra cash (T)(8670477)

10.45 THE SUNDAY SHOW Highlights from the series introduced by Donna McPhail (498632)

11.15 AFFAIRS TO REMEMBER - Members of the public recall their favourite moments from the silver screen (9836835)

11.20 BALLET Documentary-maker Frederick Wiseman records the daily routine of the American Ballet Theatre as they prepare for a European tour. Includes footage of *the late Michael Somes in rehearsal* and choreographer Agnes de Mille as she tries to construct a new ballet (36153812)

2.10pm A YEAR IN FLIGHT reviewed by Julian Tutt (9000670)

3.00 GOGS *Animation about a stone-age* family (T) (8634767)

3.10 FILM: Casablanca (1942) starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. The classic story of love rediscovered and sacrificed again in a "gin joint" in North Africa. Directed by Michael Curtiz (T) (19236670)

4.50 CHOIR OF THE YEAR First of a four-part search for the Britain's top amateur choir from Buxton Opera House (3984670)

5.30 THE QUEEN (Signing and subtitles) (744467)

5.40 TODAY'S THE DAY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Two teams of celebrities from classic comedy shows do battle in this festive edition of the nostalgia quiz on Christmases past. Hosted by Martyn Lewis (217651)

6.20 AN AUDIENCE WITH CHARLES DICKENS: A Christmas Carol The second of two readings from the Dickens seasonal tale. Simon Callow *re-enacts* Christmas dinner with the Cratchit family (T) (312545)

6.40 ARIODANTE An English National Opera production from the London Coliseum of Handel's opera in three-acts conducted by Ivor Bolton and starring Ann Murray in the title role, Lesley Garrett and Joan Rodgers (83806729)

9.20 BOOKMARK SPECIAL: Saint-Ex A drama-documentary about Antoine de Saint-Exupery, author of *The Little Prince.* With Bruno Ganz, Miranda Richardson and Janet Mcteer (T) (6358699)

11.00 FILM: Glengarry Glen Ross (1992) starring Al Pacino, Jack Lemmon and Alec Baldwin. Dramatic adaptation of David Mamet's *Pulitzer Prize-winning play about* two real estate salesmen having to clinch a deal to stay employed. Directed by James Foley (T) (921629)

12.40am FILM: Play It Again, Sam (1972) starring Woody Allen and Diane Keaton. Allen plays a film buff who is advised on how to streamline his chaotic love life by the ghost of Humphrey Bogart. Directed by Herbert Ross (1073152)

1.55 WEATHER (9956132)

[illegible]

6.00am GMTV (7538309)

9.25 CARTOON TIME (3840835)

9.30 AWAY IN A MANGER *(T) (59187)*

10.30 CHRISTMAS WITH THE ROYAL NAVY Anthea Turner boards *HMS Belfast* for the first broadcast from a non-stop live party linking naval families around the world (1714816)

10.50 PERCY THE PARK KEEPER Animation (8679903)

11.20 FILM: Alice in Wonderland (1951) Disney's animated version of Lewis Carroll's classic tale (T) (1048800)

12.40 NEWS (T) and weather (30314816)

12.50 CHRISTMAS WITH THE ROYAL NAVY (3918380)

1.10 FILM: The Man Upstairs (1992) Reclusive spinster Katharine Hepburn discovers escaped convict Ryan O'Neal hiding in her attic. Directed by George Shaefer (60552477)

2.45 CHRISTMAS WITH THE ROYAL NAVY Anthea Turner hosts more live link-ups with naval families across the world (3089767)

3.00 HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN (T) (8621293)

3.10 THE TREASURE SEEKERS Family drama based on the novel by E Nesbit telling the story of five children and their widowed father who set out to make the money they need to keep a roof over their heads (T) (94995564)

5.00 NEWS (T) and weather (5886038)

5.10 CHRISTMAS WITH THE ROYAL NAVY (4/5) (5866274)

5.25 FILM: Dennis (1993) with Walter Matthau and Mason Gamble. The adventures of a little boy whose inability to stay out of trouble is matched only by his neighbour's anger at his mischief. Directed by Nick Castle (T) (79755496)

7.00 CORONATION STREET Vera is reunited with Jack after his spell in hospital (T) (5187)

7.30 DES O'CONNOR'S CHRISTMAS WITH THE STARS Festive music and chat presented by Des O'Connor (T) (643941)

8.45 CHRISTMAS WITH THE ROYAL NAVY Anthea Turner presents the day's final broadcast from HMS Belfast (794090)

8.55 NEWS (T) and weather (614816)

9.00 CHRISTMAS HEARTBEAT *A white* Christmas plunges Aidensfield into chaos (T) (5651)

10.00 FILM: The Remains of the Day (1993) Anthony Hopkins stars as a butler reflecting on the vagaries of life and lost love. Also starring Emma Thompson, James Fox and Hugh Grant Directed by James Ivory (T) (264800)

12.30am FILM: DOA (1988) with Dennis Quaid, Meg Ryan and Charlotte Rampling. A college professor awakes from a night on the town to discover he has been poisoned with a slow-acting toxin. In an attempt to find his own murderer he retraces steps but soon finds himself caught up in a labyrinth of deception and murder. Directed by Rocky Morton and Annabel Jankel (297591)

2.15 FILM: Everybody's All American with Dennis Quaid, Jessica Lange and Timothy Hutton. Charting the intertwined lives of three friends form the mid-1950s to the present day. Directed by Taylor Hackford (92761299)

4.35 FILM: Oliver Twist (1978) Animation (3289249)

5.45 CARTOON TIME (7572317)

5.55 NEWS (1244065)

[illegible]

As HTV West except:

8.59pm LOCAL WEATHER (614816)

12.30am Film: FORT APACHE — THE BRONX (1981) starring Paul Newman, directed by Daniel Petrie (74861713)

2.50 Film: OBSESSION (1976). A suspense thriller starring Cliff Robertson, Genevieve Bujold and John Lithgow, directed by Brian De Palma (272959)

4.35 PONGO'S TAIL: THE MAKING OF 101 DALMATIANS (58280997)

5.05 JAMES BOND JNR (3349713)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

8.59pm-9.00 WESTCOUNTRY WEATHER (614816)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: No Variations

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

5.09-5.10 ANGLIA WEATHER (6731670)

8.59-9.00 ANGLIA WEATHER (614816)

S4C

Starts: 6.45am TAKE FIVE *(46212)*

7.15 THE GREATEST TUNE ON EARTH (7135729)

7.40 THE BABYSITTERS CLUB (1861699)

8.10 LITTLE SHOP (7645632)

8.35 WHERE ON EARTH IS CARMEN SAN DIEGO? (6676564)

9.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (53496)

10.00 A CHRISTMAS CAROL (46372)

10.30 Film: CHRISTMAS STALLION (60306699)

12.20pm FRESH POP (6373877)

12.30 SANCTWS (49019)

1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN (54038)

1.30 FATHER CHRISTMAS (31090)

2.00 Film: DROP DEAD FRED (534057)

3.45 THE QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE (1865699)

3.55 5 PUMP: HANES TEILIWR CAERLOYW (1173941)

4.25 5 PUMP: YR ENWOG FFRED (6553212)

4.55 5 PUMP: ROWND A ROWND (1401835)

5.25 5 PUMP: CELFAGATI (1400651)

6.00 NEWYDDION (222583)

6.05 HENO (318729)

6.35 SION A SIAN *(590496)*

7.00 POBOL Y CWM (3729)

7.30 MA' IFAN 'MA (512895)

8.15 MIL O LEISIAU (530477)

9.15 BYDD YN WROL (928903)

10.45 BROOKSIDE (774380)

11.20 THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE (862729)

11.35 Film: FRIED GREEN TOMATOES AT THE WHISTLE STOP CAFE (66185309)

VideoPlus+ and Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly *with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in* the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

CHANNEL 4

6.45am TAKE 5 (46212)

7.15 THE GREATEST TUNE ON EARTH (7135729)

7.40 THE BABYSITTERS CLUB (r) (1861699)

8.10 LITTLE SHOP (r) (7645632)

8.35 WHERE ON EARTH IS CARMEN SANDIEGO? (6676564)

9.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST *Includes* the last part of Vanessa Feltz's interview with Madonna (53496)

10.00 THE CRYSTAL MAZE (r) (T) (30458)

11.00 THE ADVENTURES OF MOLE *Animation (r) (T) (43922)*

12.00 THE PINK PANTHER (5449011)

12.25pm GOD IN THE HOUSE An interactive Christian service from Tolworth, London (T) (1548800)

12.55 THE SNOWMAN Raymond Briggs' *much loved animation (r) (9337187)*

1.25 HOME TO ROOST Seasonal edition of the comedy series. Henry's romantic break is interrupted by the arrival of the children. Starring John Thaw and Reece Dinsdale (T) (1892019)

2.25 THE HAPPY PRINCE Animated opera based on an Oscar Wilde story. Narrated by Nigel Hawthorne (r) (T) (4445318)

3.00 THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE With Rory Bremner as Diana, Princess of Wales (T) (8470767)

3.15 FAUST Gounod's opera about a man selling his soul to the Devil for youth and beauty. Performed by Welsh National Opera in English to *celebrate their 50th anniversary. The* conductor is Sir Charles Mackerras (T) (58976019)

6.40 HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE (T) (804361)

6.55 FILM: The Battle of the Sexes (1959, b/w) A comedy starring Peter Sellers, Robert Morley and Constance Cummings An elderly accountant decides to take on an American efficiency expert when she sets out to reorganise a Scottish tweed company where he works Charles Crichton directs (54947090)

8.30 BROOKSIDE Ron Dixon receives an unexpected guest and Jackie is having doubts about leaving Jimmy (T) (4212)

9.00 FILM: *Dial M for Murder* (1954) starring Ray Milland and Grace Kelly. Classic thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock. When playboy Tony Wendice discovers his wealthy wife is having an affair he hatches a plot to ensure he does not end up penniless (T) (3816)

11.00 FILM: Strange Invaders (1983) starring Paul Le Mat, Nancy Allen, Diana Scarwid and Michael Lerner. A spoof science fiction romp about an Illinois town that is taken over by beings from outer space. Directed by Michael Laughlin (323941)

12.35am FILM: Invasion (1966) starring Edward Judd. Science fiction thriller about doctors who discover their patient is an extra-terrestrial *murderer on the run. Directed by* Alan Bridges (3004607)

2.00 BEAVIS AND BUTTHEAD CHRISTMAS SPECIAL The duo make politically incorrect comments about a selection of seasonal video classics (r) (2435997)

2.35 FILM: I'll Cry Tomorrow (1955, b/w) starring Susan Hayward, Jo Van Fleet, Eddie Albert and Richard Conte. A biography of the stage and screen star Lilian Roth . Directed by Daniel Mann (29846201)

RADIO 1

8.00am Simon Mayo's Christmas Jukebox **11.30** The Chris Evans Summer Roadshow Tour '96 **1.30pm** Independence Day UK **2.30** Charlie Jordan **6.00** A Tip Top Christmas **8.00** Jesus: Cool or Cheesy? **9.00** In Concert Classic Simply Red and Tina Turner **12.00** Claire Sturgess **4.00am** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Roger Royle **8.05** Don Maclean **10.00** The Queen's *Christmas Message* **10.10** Steve Wright **12.00** Christmas Foreverett **1.30pm** The Christmas Huddlines 1996 **2.00** Michael Aspel **4.00** Gloria Hunniford **5.00** WC Fields **6.00** Sweet, Sweet Ella **8.00** Christmas Under Fire **9.00** Carlo Curley, Pavarotti of the Organ **10.30** Vintage Christmas: *It's a Wonderful Life* **11.00** Patrick Lunt **3.00am** Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.05am Brief Lives 96 **6.05** Football Forever **7.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.05** Hong Kong at Christmas **11.05** Never Walk Alone (3/5) **11.35** The Food of Love and Hate (3/4) **12.05pm** Spotlight 96 **1.05** Entertainment 96 **2.05** The Best of Ruscoe on Five **4.05** 5 live Christmas Quiz **5.05** Jeans Genius **6.05** Island Line **7.05** Hold the front Page Christmas Special **7.35** Lawrence Batley **8.05** The Umpire Strikes Back **9.05** In the Cannes **10.05** Robo Sapiens **11.05** Weather Reports **11.35** Tales of the Turf **12.05am** After Hours, with John Diamond **2.05** Up All Night , with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Philip Hodson **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Sports Zone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT.** News on the hour **5.30am** Omnibus **6.30** Megamix **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Discovery **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Concert Hall **9.07** World News **9.15** Andy Kershaw **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Stories by W W. Jacobs **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Composer **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Megamix **3.05** Sport **3.15** Concert Hall **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sport **6.30** Discovery **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian On Screen **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.10** Science View **11.15** Country Style **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** From Our Own Correspondent **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Assignment **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Meridian Books **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Michael Fanstone **9.00** Jamie Crick **12.00** Classic Christmas with Henry Kelly **2.00pm** Her Majesty the Queen's Christmas Broadcast to the Commonwealth **2.05** Iolanthe **4.00** Jane Markham **6.00** Menuhin at 80 **8.00** Royal Philharmonic Christmas Concert Bizet (Overture from Carmen); Khachaturian (Sabre Dance). Tchaikovsky (Swan Lake Suite); Prokofiev (Troika from The Suite. Lieutenant Kije) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Classic Voices of Our Time Hugh MacPherson unveils the result of the listener's poll to find the best loved singer of the post-war period **3.00** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Jeremy Clark **10.00** Russ 'n' Jono's Christmas **2.00pm** Graham Dene **6.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Britten (Christ's Nativity); Respighi (Pines of Rome), Arnold (Overture: Commonwealth Christmas); Chopin (*Mazurkas Op 59 Nos 1-3,* Op 63 No 3)

8.50 An Advent Calendar

9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Tchaikovsky (December, The Seasons); Mendelssohn (Six Children's Pieces, Op 72 Christmas Pieces)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Arbeau (Branle); Auber (Le Domino Noir (excerpt); Thoumire (Reels); Haydn (Marcia (Notturno No 1); Grieg (In Heaven); Mozart (Figaro, *excerpt*)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky

1.00pm Christmas Choice. Susan Sharpe presents a specially extended festive edition

3.20 A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. From the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge

5.00 Music Machine

5.15 The Life and Times of the Symphony. Malcolm Macdonald and John Deathridge examine how both Brahms and Bruckner struggled to shake off the shadow of Beethoven and discover that earlier church music provided them with new inspiration. Presented by Stephen Johnson (3/6)

6.45 Digital Masters. Pianist John O'Conor unearths a treasure trove of *favourite* piano recordings. Includes Chopin (Polonaise in A flat, Op 53); Field (Nocturne No 4 in A); Liszt (La Leggierezza) (3/5)

7.30 A Grand, Mysterious Harmony BBC Philharmonic under Sachio Fujioka. Bruckner (Symphony No 3, Final version 1888/89)

9.00 By Woody Allen (3/5)

9.30 An Antidote to Christmas. A selection of lighthearted music and readings offers an ironic view of festive seasons *past and present*

10.00 Voices. Iain Burnside presents a vocal performance by Kit and the Widow and special guest Ann Murray

10.45 The Shellac Show. Jeremy Nicholas introduces a selection of music from the age of 78rpm records. Includes works by Mussorgsky, Montague, Phillips and Ibert

11.30 Composers of the Week: Ernest Chausson and Henri Duparc (r)

12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

6.00am Christmas Classics with Kay. A selection of seasonal music, including works by Handel, John Rutter and Vaughan Williams

7.00 News 7.05 Not Today! Christmas chat with Russell Davies and guests

8.43 So Far So Good, by Paul Eddington (3/5)

9.00 HM the Queen

9.05 News 9.10 Morning Service, from the Chapel of Bethlehem University

10.00 A Good Read. Sarah Dunant *invites satirists John Bird and* John Fortune to discuss their three favourite paperbacks

10.30 Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures: The Cherry

11.00 Park Bench and Co

11.30 The Old Curiosity Shop, by Charles Dickens (1/6)

12.00 People Like Us

12.25pm Christmas with Mr Punch

1.00 News; With Great Pleasure 1.40 The Archers (r)

2.00 Fond and Familiar. Readings of festive poems *and stories* by Judi Dench and Michael Williams

3.30 My Brother Makes the Noises at the Movies, with film historian John Huntley

4.00 News 4.05 Our Christmas. A fly-on-the-wall study of various families

4.45 Short Story: The Gift of the Magi, by O Henry

5.00 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue Christmas Special. A festive edition (r)

5.30 The Shuttleworths' Christmas Special, by Graham Fellows

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.05 No Ordinary Woman. Valerie Grove goes in search of the real Mrs Miniver, the plucky British folk heroine originally created by Jan Struther for *The Times* (r)

6.30 Quote Unquote. Nigel Rees hosts the quotation quiz, with Neil Mullarkey, Jennifer Paterson, Anton Rodgers and Ann Thwaite

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Waiting for Mrs Forbes. Ray Gosling uncovers the shadowy secrets of a small Anglican diocese in Pau, south-west France (r)

8.05 Points of Reference (4/4)

8.35 Dear Peter Pan. Nanette Newman reads a selection of fan mail written by Edwardian children to the actresses who played the hero (r)

9.00 Journeys to Imaginary Places

9.30 Kaleidoscope

10.00 Ghost Poems. A mysterious collection of eerie verses

10.45 Book at Bedtime: High Spirits (3/5)

11.00 On this Day. Highlights from Christmas Day, 1946

11.15 Reading Aloud (r)

11.45 Christmas Day Meditation, with Nicolas Frayling, Rector *of Liverpool*

12.30am The Late Book: Sir Henry at Rawlinson End. by Viv Stanshall (3/5)

12.48 Shipping Forecast

1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.**Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

6.00am The Nutcracker: A Fantasy on Ice (89175767) **8.10** Hotel (5526800) **9.00** Hercules: The Legendary Journeys — *Double Bill* (85311941) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9401038) **12.00** Geraldo (71632) **1.00pm** The Oprah Winfrey Show (80380) **2.00** Year in Review: Fashions (2019) **2.30** Year in Review: Princess of Wales (1498) **3.00** The Queen's Christmas Message (6175477) **3.05** Hercules: The Legendary Journeys — Double Bill (57487748) **5.00** *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (5106) **6.00** The Simpsons (2125) **6.30** The Simpsons (3477) **7.00** The Simpsons (6835) **7.30** Supermodels (2361) **8.00** Police Stop! 5 (27835) **9.00** The Outer Limits (20922) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (84293) **12.00** Midnight Caller (53930) **1.00am** Hit Mix Long Play (38220)

SKY 2

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1097038) **8.00** Les Miserables 10th Anniversary (6363906) **11.00** Late Show, with David Letterman (1404632) **12.00 FILM: Clara's Heart** (2740978) **2.00am** Hit Mix Long Play (5089662)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Tom and Jerry: The Movie (1993) (26570) **8.00 The Black Stallion** (1979) (50019) **10.00 Season of Change** (1994) (15941) **11.30 E! News Week in Review** (18699) **12.00 Miracle on 34th Street** (1994) (65670) **2.00pm Mrs Doubtfire** (1993) (82411038) **4.10 The Nutcracker** (1993) (66813632) **6.00 Corrina, Corrina** (1994) (11274) **8.00 Star Trek: Generations** (1994) (23019) **10.00 Nobody's Fool** (1994) (88458) **12.00 Wolf** (1994) (46291892) **2.05am Barcelona** (1994) (676526) **3.45 White Mile** (1994) (87404)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am My Neighbour Totoro (1993) (82458) **7.30 A Christmas Carol** (1970) (32456) **8.30 The Day They Gave Babies Away** (1957) (96842187) **10.15 Batman Forever** (1995) (489699) **12.15pm Richie Rich** (1994) (482498) **2.00 A Home of Our Own** (1994) (22380) **4.00 Look Who's Talking Now** (1993) (1380) **6.00 Batman Forever** (1995) (19816) **8.00 Forrest Gump** (1994) (14848583) **10.25 The River Wild** (1994) (631212) **12.20am Parallel Lives** (1994) (961539) **2.05 The Browning Version** (1994) (674288) **3.45 Shadow Dancer** (1995) (85045)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm White Christmas (1954) (8339496) **6.00 Back to the Future** (1985) (3726835) **8.00 Ghostbusters** (1984) (3721380) **10.00 The Guns of Navarone** (1961) (13448361) **12.40pm West Side Story** (1961) (51564607) **3.10-5.10 The Bride** (1985) (3474539)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.

6.00am Muppet Babies (4760309) **6.25** Sing Me a Story, with Belle (4749816) **6.50** Big Garage (1838458) **7.00 FILM: Bambi** (2280545) **8.10** Bonkers (9498816) **8.35** Goof Troop (8704816) **9.00** Aladdin (5349458) **9.25** Timon and Pumbaa (3166835) **10.10** Darkwing Duck (8656421) **10.35** Bonkers (1288651) **11.10** Quack Attack (9182922) **11.25** Have Yourself a Goofy Little Christmas (9011187) **11.50** Goof Troop (9175212) **12.15pm** Aladdin (3592583) ***12.40 A Muppet Family Christmas*** (2673583) **1.30 FILM: Bluebos, the Christmas Elf** (94916800) **1.55** Teddy Bears Christmas (41560632) **2.20** Winnie the Pooh and Christmas Too (7866093) **3.00** Darkwing Duck (7650748) **3.25** Aladdin (7582583) **3.50 FILM: Mary Poppins** (47931748) **6.15 FILM: Bambi** (1345903) **7.30** Dr Quinn (992187) **8.15** Touched by an Angel (175583) **9.00** Home Improvement (86038) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (11309)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre Christmas Special (36800) **8.00** World Wrestling Federation: *Blast Off* (17729) **9.00** Soccer AM Christmas Special (853458) **11.30** UK Strongman 1996 (89800) **1.00pm** Football Special: The Best Goals and Football Bloopers of 1996 (10729) **2.30** Cliff Richard's Celebrity Christmas Tennis 1996 (40729) **3.30** Futbol Mundial (6729) **4.00** International Cricket Second Test Preview (42670) **5.00** World Wrestling Federation: *Challenge* (1477) **6.00** Football Special: The Best Goals and Football Bloopers of 1996 (34309) **7.30** UK Strongman 1996 (98854) **9.00** Cliff Richard's Celebrity Christmas Tennis 1996 (76125) **10.00** International Cricket: Second Test Preview (79212) **11.00** Football Special: The Best Goals and Football Bloopers of 1996 (88534) **12.30am** UK Strongman 1996 (86336) **2.00-3.00** International Cricket: Second Test Preview (34688)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Beach Volleyball (43336545) **1.00pm** Golf Extra: US PGA Tour 1996 Review (57800800) **4.00** Angling Masters (10683038) **5.00** World Professional Figure Skating (65951093) **7.00** International Cricket: Second Test Preview (41717632) **8.00** Golf Extra: Lexus Challenge (36347903) **11.00-12.00** Beach Volleyball (60311670)

EUROSPORT

7.30am All Sports (70332) **8.30** All Sports (23632) **9.00** Football (37496) **10.00** All Sports (21748) **11.00** All Sports (20458) **11.30** Olympic Games (21187) **12.00** Football (74854) **1.00pm** Formula One (8348922) **4.30** Snowboarding (9816) **5.00** Motors (6545) **6.00** All Sports (2039) **6.30** Olympic Games (4361) **7.00** Fitness (7274) **7.30** Sumo (89922) **9.00** All Sports (33922) **9.30** Olympic Games (75583) **10.00** Football (84380) **11.00** Equestrianism (22477) **12.00-12.30am** All Sports (10152)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (5557019) **6.30** Tickle on the Tum (29124748) **6.45** 1-2-3 Go! (82824941) **7.00** Albion (7026816) **7.15** Tickle on the Tum (8020496) **7.30** Graham's Ark (7081090) **7.50** Josie Smith (9613274) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (1329564) **8.30** The Krypton Factor (1328835) **9.00** Families (1319187) **9.30** Crown Court Special (5838090) **10.00-6.30pm Christmas Day Special: Coronation Street**

6.30 Families (1222854) **7.00** The Doctors Series: In Charge 2 (1434496) **7.30** Trouble in Mind (1228038) **8.00** Time for Murder (8241361) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (2958816) **9.30** Christmas on the Street (5853670) **10.00-11.00** Hank Wangford at Strangeways (8264212)

From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features and Your Stars presented by Russell Grant

From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith

From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty. Includes Natural Health

From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden. Includes The Good Life Style Guide

Julie Andrews stars in *Mary Poppins* (Disney Channel, 3.50pm)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Santa Claus (2616854) **5.00** Jerusalem (1372583) **6.00** Christmas at War (4852038) **7.00-8.00** Biography Santa Claus (6905941)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from **8pm-4am** Monday to Wednesday and **1am-4am** Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from **8am-4am** every day on cable.

6.00pm Paranormal (1359632) **6.30** The Twilight Zone (1376767) **9.00** Sightings (6301125) *10.00 Nova (6304212)* **11.00 FILM: Santa Claus Conquers the Martians** (6220309) **12.45am** Special Preview Screening of First Contact (7846423) **1.00** The Twilight Zone (6256268) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (6820220) **2.00** New Alfred Hitchcock (3768046) **2.30** Rod Serling's Night Gallery (3770661) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (2769330)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am Go Fishing (4404670) **9.30** Go Fishing (2788309) **10.00** Fiona on Fishing (9066477) **10.30** Fiona on Fishing (4400854) **11.00** Fishing, with Paul Meredith (1728187) **12.00** Screaming Reels (4491106) **12.30pm** Screaming Reels (2782125) **1.00** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (1722903) **1.30** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (2781496) **2.00** Hooked on Fishing (7642748) **2.30** Hooked on Fishing (8985380) **3.00** Go Fishing (7654583) **3.30-4.00** Go Fishing (8997125)

***DISCOVERY* takes over at 4.00pm.**

4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (8976632) **4.30** Roadshow (8972816) **5.00** Time Travellers (7553800) **5.30** Terra X (8998496) **6.00** Wild Things: Untamed Africa (2767816) **7.00** Next Step (7646564) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's World of Strange Powers (8973545) **8.00-12.00** Showcase: *UFO: Down to Earth* **12.00** Lotus Elise: Project M1.11 (8856794) **1.00am** The Extremists (5204539) **1.30-2.00** Special Forces (7654607)

UK GOLD

7.00am Jackanory (78652729) **8.25 FILM: Tiger Bay** (41958309) *10.20 To the Manor Born* (7082106) **10.55** Terry and June (6936106) **11.30** For the Love of Ada (5185800) **12.15pm** Shelley (6380800) **12.50** The Two Ronnies (62640106) **2.15** *Cliff Richard in Concert* (7805011) **3.15** Porridge (7642767) **4.10** Some Mother's Do 'Ave Em (8466090) **5.10** Michael Crawford's Save the Children (66139670) **6.15** Bread (67812903) **7.20** Hi-De-Hi (32473106) **8.25** George and Mildred (2407816) **9.00** Casualty (27083057) **10.05 FILM: Mississippi Burning** (25233699) **12.25am** Ever Decreasing Circles (4091845) **1.00** The Best of Top of the Pops (3279794) **1.40** Terry and June (8826084) **2.15** Shopping (2971959)

TCC

6.00am Tiny TCC (4742903) **6.20** Tiny and Crew Xmas Special (4685125) **6.30** Jim Henson (88670) **7.00** Adventure of an Art (50458) **8.00** Cosmic Christmas (66361) **8.30** The Glo Friends Save Christmas (65632) **9.00** Art Attack (89212) **9.30** TCC Chart Show (93903) **10.00** Saved by the Bell (15908) **11.00** Valley High (79748) **11.30** Hang Time (70477) **12.00** Heartbreak High (16854) **1.00pm** Chart Show (13800) **1.30** Meltdown. Oasis Concert — Live by the Sea (96090) **2.00** Valley High (70651) **3.00** California Dreams (74293) **4.00-5.00** Saved by the Bell (80800)

NICKELODEON

Christmas Day Special: Rugrats 7.00am-7.00pm

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (3908) **7.30** Benson (3019) **8.00** Due South (54903) **9.00** Almost Perfect (46496) **9.30** Taxi (55729) **10.00** Entertainment UK (31651) **10.30** Girls on Top (57699) **11.00** Paramount Presents (41941) **11.30** Nightstand (60757) *12.30am Sledge Hammer! (76220)* **1.00** Due South (34997) **2.00** Entertainment UK (61539) **2.30** Paramount Presents (40046) **3.00** Girls on Top (92442) **3.30-4.00** Almost Perfect (64626)

BRAVO

12.00 Fantasy Island (2765458) **1.00pm** Remington Steele (2774106) **2.00** Sapphire and Steele (9054632) **3.00** Fantasy Island (1181816) **4.00 FILM: The Medusa Touch** (7652125) **6.00** Thunderbirds (2787670) **7.00** The Champions (1315800) **8.00** Starsky and Hutch (1404748) **9.00** Crime Story (1417212) **10.00-12.00 FILM: To the Devil a Daughter** (1180187)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (1004767) **7.00** The Agony Experience (1631212) **7.30** The Young and *the Restless* (3003090) **8.20** Rhodes Around Britain (1999816) **8.55** Turnabout (8294922) **9.35** Trivial Pursuit (9250926) **10.00** Entertainment Now! (6263477) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (1784699) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (1362090) **11.55** Brookside (22094125) **12.25pm** Call the Doctor (40880496) **12.50** Gabrielle (2464545) **1.40** Rolonda (9031458) **2.30** The Agony Experience (2905854) **3.00** Charlie's Angels (5947922) **4.00** Who's Sorry Now? (2996106) **4.30** Talkabout (2153125) **5.05** Lingo (45332632) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2909670) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (2906583) **6.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (2183075) **7.05** Brookside (4822903) **7.35** Trivial Pursuit (4463748) **8.00** General Practice (3725106) ***9.00 FILM: It Nearly Wasn't Christmas*** (26491038) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (8602583) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files II (1617632)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (9583) **5.30** Treasure *Hunt* (75038) *5.30 Catchphrase (6361)* **7.00** The Pyramid Game (6019) **7.30** Hart to Hart (80545) **8.30** My Two Dads (4274) **9.00** Bergerac (31926) **11.00** Bagdad Cafe (61729) **11.30** FM (75106) **12.00** Lou Grant (86442) **1.00am** Bergerac (72171) **2.00** Hart to Hart (78046) **3.00** Lou Grant (82336) **4.00** All Together Now (90065) **4.30-5.00** *The Black Stallion* (39997)

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran (74178274) **7.30** Life Style East (90510477) **9.00** Bengali Serial: Ebar Tumbe Mawja (39948922) **9.30** Apnnein (77395835) **10.00** Tara (74186293) **11.00** Manasi (63908458) **11.30** Daraar (63909187) **12.00** Dance Mania (39935458) **12.30pm** Nukked (77389651) **1.00** Christmas Day Special Hum (61614670) **4.00** Public Demand (63922038) **5.00** ZEE Zone (72134570) **5.30** Film Chakkar (34420477) **6.00** Campus (34410090) **6.30** ZEE and You (34434670) **7.00** Hit The Hit Hai (82039926) **7.30** Banegi Apni Baat (34430854) **8.00** News and Euronews (76734534) **8.30** Oastaan (81590263) **9.05-12.00 FILM: Krishna** (65326090)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as below.

9.00pm Casablanca (1942) (49691854) **10.50 Bacall on Bogart** (78141106) **12.25am Angels, with Dirty Faces** (1938) (60347978) **2.10 The Return of Dr X** (1939) (70397336) **3.20-5.00 Black Legion** (1936) (7991779)

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm Dance of the Century 3 (3714090) **8.00** Aria (8332583) **8.30** Nutcracker from the Kirov (1501629) **10.30** Zarzuela! (1433895) **11.30** Aria (6466748) **12.00-1.00am** GRP Allstars (6462662)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm FILM: Oliver Twist 7.00 Boon Christmas Special (43688380) **8.30** Sharpe (54188816) **10.30** The Last Place on Earth (68491767) **11.30-12.00** Over the Rainbow (94039361)

TRAVEL

12.00 Travel Live Christmas Special **1.00pm**Italian Itineraries **1.30** Travelog **2.00** The Great Outdoors **2.30** North of Naples, South of Rome **3.00** Written in Stone **3.30** Across the Line **4.00** On the Horizon **4.30** Greg's World **5.00** Amazing Races **5.30** A Fork in the Road **6.00** Postcards **6.30** Whicker's World **7.00** O'canada! **8.00** On the Loose in Wildest Africa **8.30** The Great Outdoors **9.00** Dominikas Planet **10.00** North of Naples, South of Rome **10.30** Greg's World **11.00** A-Z Med **11.30-12.00** Italian Itineraries

CHANNEL ONE

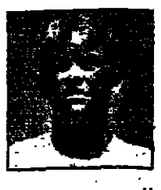
News, features, travel and weather on the hour.

9.00am News **9.05** The Messiah **11.30** The Biz **12.00** News Headlines **12.05pm** Carols for Xmas **1.00** News **1.05** The Movie Show **1.30** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema **2.00** The Nutcracker **3.30** The Way We Were **4.00** Xmas and Listen **4.30** Ballet Favourites **5.30** Paint it Red **6.00** News Headlines and Weather **6.05** Puccini Favourites **7.00-10** The River **10.00** Angel's Baby **10.30** Torque Show **11.00** Paint it Red **11.30** A-Z Food **12.00** News All Night

RACING 31
Dunwoody's quest for success fuelled by driving ambition

SPORT

CRICKET 35
Sussex exodus continues as Wells joins Kent



Lynagh conjures up cup treat

Leicester and Bath set for final rematch

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

MICHAEL LYNAGH, the former Australia captain, clearly has a future selecting numbers for the National Lottery. He was invited by the Rugby Football Union to make the draw yesterday for the sixth round of the Pilkington Cup and conjured up a round that will see the demise of a clutch of former finalists.

Lynagh, the world record points scorer in international rugby who is now playing stand-off half for Saracens, gave his employers the satisfaction of a home draw. He then promptly paired them with Wasps before going one better and pulling last May's finalists, Bath and Leicester, out of the bag; English rugby's big two are paired together for the seventh time in 11 years.

Next Lynagh produced three local derbies which should ensure full houses at Orrell — who play Sale — Northampton, who must hold off Coventry's aspirations, and Gloucester, who will meet their near-neighbours from Bristol. "I don't know whether my old friend, Bob Dwyer, will thank me for that." Lynagh said at Twickenham — Dwyer, the former Australia coach, is now Leicester's director of coaching.

Never mind Leicester. Lynagh's own colleagues might have hoped for better than to play the Wasps team that beat them so convincingly in the league last September when Lynagh himself suffered a dislocated shoulder that prevented him from playing for six weeks. "At least we will have them at home this time," he said. "Last time we played them we were still on a bit of a high after beating Leicester, but Wasps played extremely well, we were never in the game."

Since then Wasps, who have played Saracens only once in the cup, have buzzed to second in the league table, where they have a game in hand on Leicester, the leaders. They have yet to experience the atmosphere at Enfield where, this weekend, Saracens will parade their latest signing, Francois Pienaar, the former South Africa captain, who yesterday paid his first visit to the North London ground.

Bath and Leicester have played in two of the past three finals and neither has been a great advertisement for the game. Last season Leicester were on the verge of victory before a controversial penalty try, converted by Jonathan Callard, sent them to a single-point defeat and so distressed Neil Back that his push on the match referee, Steve Lander, earned him a six-month suspension.

DRAW

Bath v Leicester
Gloucester v Bristol
London Scottish v Newcastle
Northampton v Coventry
Orrell v Sale
Rotherham v Harlequins
Saracens v Wasps
Wakefield v Moseley

Ties to be played on Jan 25 or 26

"It gives both ourselves and Leicester the chance to make amends," Callard said. "I think all 30 guys on the field were probably embarrassed by what was a dismal final. Both sides had the chance to make it a showpiece occasion but the standard was so poor."

Five years ago Leicester inflicted a rare home cup defeat on Bath, winning 12-0 in a third-round tie at a muddy Recreation Ground. But first they must play Toulouse in the Heineken Cup semi-final on January 4 and, if they are successful, they will be forced to postpone the meeting with Bath because the European final, which takes precedence, is also scheduled for January 25. In that event, the Pilkington Cup game is likely to be played on the first available league weekend, February 8.

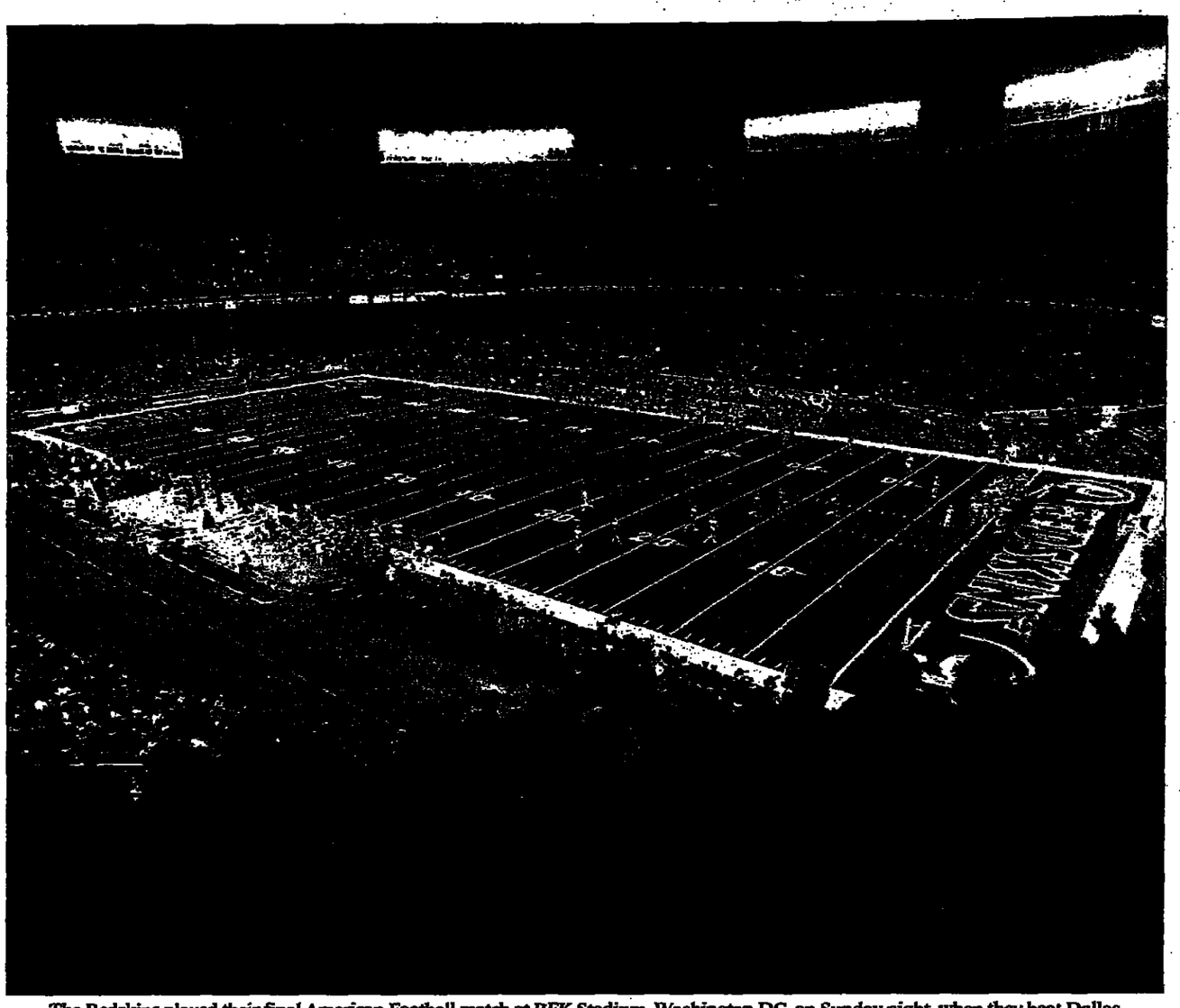
Gloucester and Bristol will rehearse their tie this weekend, when they meet in the league at Bristol. "There isn't much between the two sides in the league," Gareth Chilcott, Gloucester's commercial manager, said. "The great plus for Gloucester is that we have been slowly building our performances after a hard start, whereas Bristol have gone the other way."

The two West Country teams have managed to avoid each other in the cup since 1986, but it is six years since Gloucester last appeared in the final, and eight years for Bristol. Even so Gloucester's rebuilding, under Chilcott and Richard Hill, has not gone unnoticed and informal approaches are said to have been made to both men from their old playing haunts in Bath, whose management is somewhat unsettled.

"It will be a huge game and if Gloucester beat them in the league, Bristol are in crisis time," Chilcott said. "A cup run is very important, for finances and everything else, but the league is the priority. Gloucester are playing with a lot of confidence now and that could prove to be the difference between the two sides."

Harlequins, the 5-2 favourites with the bookmakers, will give Rotherham, sixth in the second division, a lucrative tie. The Yorkshire club have never been further than the fourth round.

Referees settle, page 32



The Redskins played their final American Football match at RFK Stadium, Washington DC, on Sunday night, when they beat Dallas Cowboys 37-10. The Redskins are leaving their home of 35 years for a new 78,600-seat stadium five miles away in Landover, Maryland

Dalglish scouts around for nice sideline with Rangers

By Kevin McCarra

WITH a terseness that the man himself must have admired, the signing of Kenny Dalglish was announced in a mere 117 words yesterday. The brevity of the press release confirming that he is to work for Carnegie Sports International, a company owned by David Murray, the Rangers chairman, contrasted with the lengthy conjecture that has surrounded Dalglish since he was removed from his position as director of football at Blackburn Rovers early this season.

It had been reported that the former Liverpool manager would be taking up a post with Rangers, whom he supported as a boy, to persuade leading footballers around the world to sign for the club. Now, the only reference to such a role is to be found in a sentence so heavily qualified as to be tentative.

After describing Dalglish's duties with Carnegie, the statement continues: "He will also, if required, from time to time assist in player recruitment for Walter Smith at Rangers Football Club." A spokesman for Carnegie suggested that Dalglish, a former Celtic player, will not be integral to operations at Ibrox and may have to approach the club to propose transfers.

"If Rangers like what he offers and take what he offers, no doubt there will be some reimbursement to Carnegie," David Southern said. "The Murray International companies all work autonomously." Of course, it would be foolish to underestimate the quality of advice given by a man who ignored charges of profligacy when taking Alan Shearer to Blackburn Rovers for £3.3 million and eventually saw him sold to Newcastle United for £15 million.

Dalglish: recruiting role

Dalglish's title at Carnegie, however, is "New Business Development Manager" and, primarily, he is expected to attract sportsmen and sponsors to the marketing company. Carnegie also run the Loch Lomond World International, an event of particular interest to a golfer as enthusiastic as Dalglish. It is likely that he will continue to live in Southport.

Meanwhile, Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, has asked that Pierre van Hooijdonk set aside his contractual dispute with the club for the time being. "This was a big enough season already without obstacles being put in our way," Burns said. "Negotiations over pay rises and contracts should be left until the end of the season."

Williamson's job, page 37
Overseas view, page 37

Arsenal protest about Wright's dismissal

ARSENAL have submitted an official complaint with the Football Association about the sending off of Ian Wright at Nottingham Forest on Saturday. Stephen Lodge, the referee, and John Holbrook, his assistant, will now be sent a video of the incident in which Wright barged into Nikola Jerkan, the Forest defender.

An FA spokeswoman said: "We will be asking for their observations before deciding what action to take." Lodge, who relied on evidence from Holbrook before showing the red card to Wright, confirmed that he had dismissed Wright for violent conduct, which carries an automatic three-match ban.

"I am sending off my report to the FA today and that has to remain confidential," he said. "I did not see the incident involving Wright, my assistant did. However, I would be prepared to view the video, provided that that request came from the FA."

☐ Matthias Sammer, the Germany sweeper, has won the coveted Golden Ball award. The trophy is awarded by *France Football* magazine after a vote by football journalists throughout Europe.

Sammer finished just ahead of Ronaldo, the Brazil forward who plays for Barcelona. Alan Shearer, of Newcastle United and England, was well back in third place. Eric Cantona, the Manchester United captain, finished seventh.

County seek new direction on the Forest footpath

Dismissive attitudes are prevailing in Nottingham, according to Richard Hobson

MANAGERIAL upheaval is becoming commonplace in Nottingham. Four days after Frank Clark resigned at Forest, Colin Murphy, the general manager across the River Trent at Notts County, and Steve Thompson, the team manager, were dismissed after an emergency board meeting yesterday.

Derek Pavis, the County chairman, is a former vice-chairman of Forest and has kept a close eye on affairs at the City Ground. It is perhaps not surprising, given the elevation of Stuart Pearce to caretaker manager of Forest, that Pavis should have handed temporary responsibility to the mainstay of his side's defence.

Gary Strodder, 31, thus becomes caretaker-manager. He will be assisted by Tony Agana, a striker who became the club's record signing when he arrived from Sheffield United for £680,000 five years ago. They will hope to find the kind of instant success at Watford on Boxing Day that Pearce enjoyed on Saturday, when Forest beat Arsenal 2-1.

Five managers or management teams have been dismissed from Meadow Lane in the past 27 months, with Howard Kendall the most conspicuous casualty, having lasted 79 days last year. When the chairman appointed Murphy and Thompson in June last year, he emphasised the importance of a period of stability at the club. Both signed three-year contracts but lasted just 18 months.

Murphy: stability

As recently as 1992, County were in the old first division and their ranks included Mark Draper, Tommy Johnson and Craig Short. They are now second from bottom of the Nationwide League second division and Pavis, upset at the growing calls for his own resignation, recently offered to sell the club for £3 million.

Geoff Davey, the County managing director, said: "There has to be a line drawn and a time when a decision is taken on whether to continue with the downward spiral and, as time passes, make it harder to reverse the situation, or clear the decks and give ourselves time to turn things around. This is a sad day but we must move on."

Yesterday, Pavis denied that Neil Warnock, manager of Plymouth Argyle, would return to the club he guided to successive promotions in 1990 and 1991. Two former players, Gary Mills and Kevin Wilson, could come into contention, as could Neil Webb, an England player four years ago and a former Forest favourite, who is with Aldershot Town in the Icis League but has publicly expressed interest in becoming player-manager of a lower division club.

Australia recall Langer and Hayden

By Our Sports Staff

MATTHEW HAYDEN, the Queensland opener, and Justin Langer, the Western Australia left-hander, were recalled yesterday to the Australia cricket team for the third Test match against West Indies, in Melbourne, which starts on Boxing Day.

Hayden, who should make his second Test appearance, replaces the injured Matthew Elliott, while Langer, 26, returns after an absence of three years.

Langer made an unbeaten 274 against South Australia in Perth on Sunday and has scored 598 runs this season at an average of 119.60. He takes over from Ricky Ponting, the young Tasmanian, who will instead play for Australia A against Pakistan in a one-day match on Saturday.

Steve Waugh, the all-rounder, has recovered from the groin strain that forced him to miss the second Test, in Sydney. He proved his fitness beyond doubt at the weekend with a match-saving, 9½-hour 186 not out for New South Wales against Queensland. One of those he denied was Michael Kasprowicz, the young Queensland fast bowler, who was wicketless in his first two Tests and has been dropped.

Hayden, 25, played his only Test in South Africa, in March 1994, when he was called in at the last minute after Mark Taylor was taken ill. He has averaged more than 60 in Sheffield Shield matches. He scored 224 for an Australian XI against West Indies in Hobart last month.

Australia lead the five-Test series 2-0 and need only a draw in Melbourne to retain the Frank Worrell Trophy.

AUSTRALIA XII: M Taylor (captain), M Hayden, M Waugh, S Waugh, J Langer, M Bevan, G Blewett, I Healy, S Warne, P Reiffel, J Gillespie, G McGrath.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 973

ACROSS
1 Rank above viscount (4)
3 Addition to will (7)
8 Half man/half horse (7)
9 In a while (5)
10 Major overhaul (of eg ship) (5)
11 Flat-bladed spoon (7)
13 12 of stonewalling spokesman (2,7)
17 Son of Polonius (*Hamlet*) (7)
19 Grey/white wader (5)
20 Stop! (*nautical*) (5)
22 Love affair; story of one (7)
23 A Greek (7)
24 Mark of blow; part of shoe (4)

DOWN
1 Play it again! (6)
2 Protect (budget) for specific use (4-5)
3 Decorated pine (9,4)
4 Mouth of eg Nile (5)
5 Pet; whip (3)
6 Cowboys' tether (6)
7 Ploy (6)
12 Statement (9)
14 Disinter (6)
15 Chemical whitener (6)
16 Purpose; determined (6)
18 Tax of one-tenth (5)
21 Sicken (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 972

ACROSS: 1 Slab 3 Palliser 8 Not/able 10 Print 11 Uncalled-for 13 Au pair 15 Runway 17 Queue-jumper 20 Aware 21 Daylong 22 Latitude 23 Vein

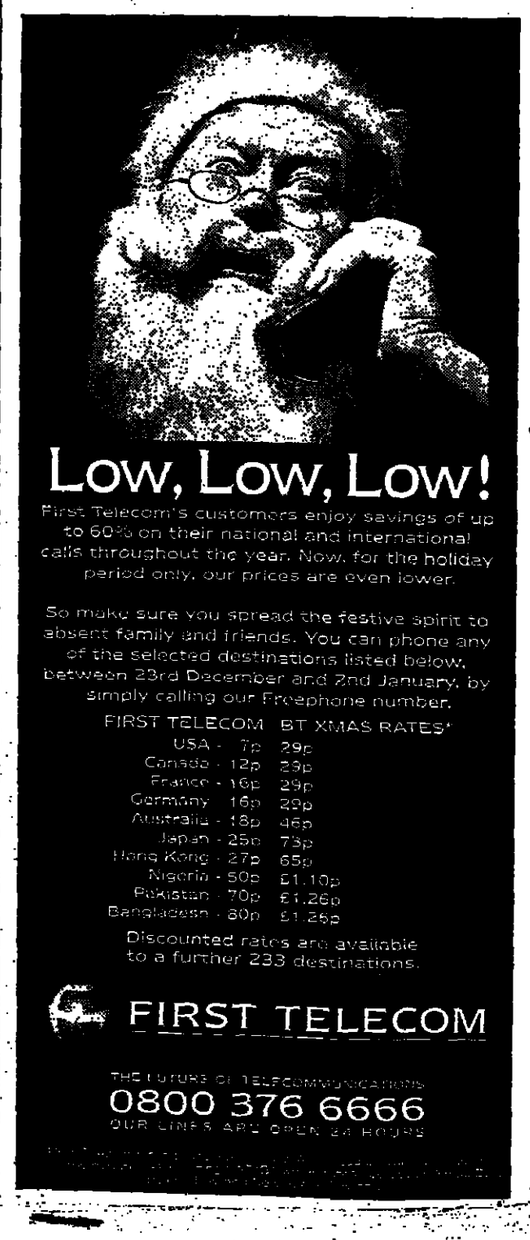
DOWN: 1 Singular 2 Aztec 4 A level 5 Lap of luxury 6 Skid Row 7 Rote 9 Belligerent 12 Hydrogen 14 Piquant 16 Bended 18 Prove 19 Maul

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 969
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 8 Execute 9 Owlet 10 Paperback 11 Bud 12 Rifle 14 Private 15 Manumit 17 Token 19 Lot 20 Sybaritic 22 Grove 23 Receive

DOWN: 1 Keeper 2 Heap 3 Quartermaster 4 Decamp 5 Fork-lift truck 6 All Black 7 Stodge 13 Function 15 Malign 16 Tabard 18 Nuclei 21 Twin

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is J Ritchie, North John Street, Liverpool.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is K Pollett, Stifford Clays, Essex.

All flights subject to availability.